NEW YORK POST

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9 NYC blocks evacuated as high-rise in danger of collapse

LEANING TOWER OF MIDTOW

PAGES 4-5

City pols want to go pay hiking

18% now, then 2% *every year*

By HANNAH FIERICK

Pay yourself first — over and over again!

Shameless city lawmakers are pushing to give themselves eye-watering 18.2% raises — in a scheme that will also give them automatic pay hikes of at least 2% every year in the future.

City Council member Nantasha Williams (D-Queens) introduced a bill that would inflate her and her colleagues' salaries from $148,500 to $175,500 backdated to January, while also ballooning pay for the mayor, the council speaker and other elected positions.

The bill that the council took up Tuesday comes days after lawmakers signed off on a record-breaking $126 billion city budget and includes salaries even higher than a 16% raise the council tried to sneak by in a similar bank-account-boosting measure at the end of their session last year.

And the bill also ensures taxpayers will be on the hook to pay elected officials more every year — with no requirement for public debate or a City Council vote.

Under the proposed law, if the council doesn't vote to hike salaries for four years, raises kick in anyway, at either 2% per year or 8.25% overall — whichever is less.

The proposal follows recommendations from a report conducted by a three-person "Quadrennial Commission" appointed by Mayor Mamdani.

Salary 'erosion'

The 127-page report suggested automatic pay hikes to prevent what it claimed would be the "further erosion of salaries" — noting that elected officials haven't received increases since 2016.

The mayor's salary would also get boosted from $258,750 to $305,800 and Council Speaker Julie Menin's would rise from $164,500 to $194,000 — though both leaders have said they wouldn't take the pay bumps.

Mamdani hasn't taken a stance on whether he was in favor of the hikes and said he'd leave it for the council to debate.

Neither he nor Menin immediately clarified what they would do with the legally mandated funds if the bill were to pass.

"Speaker Menin has consistently said that the pay of elected officials should only be modified based on an independent commission," a Menin spokesperson told The Post. "The independent commission recommended this pay raise, and Speaker Menin, while declining any pay raise herself, will discuss its recommendations with her colleagues."

The bill in its current iteration does not include a clause for any elected officials to opt out of the boost — meaning the bill would have to be amended or the official would have to personally donate the salary difference — though the spokesperson noted methods of declining a potential pay raise are still being reviewed.

Mamdani did not respond to The Post's inquiry on how he would turn down the increase.

Independent government groups Citizens Union and Reinvent Albany testified at Tuesday's hearing — with both of the fiscal watchdogs supporting a pay boost for elected officials — but citing concerns about an automatic inflation raise.

The mandated raises would not apply to any of the elected officials' staff.

James Keivom

WELL *MAYBE* NOT FOR THEM: Mayor Mamdani and City Council Speaker Julie Menin, who oversaw the passage of NYC's record-breaking $126 billion budget, have said they would forgo raises for themselves.

$1.5M for NYC 'pet' projects in budget

The newly passed city budget includes $1.5 million for the Big Apple's furry friends — including funds for a pet-food pantry.

City Council-funded initiatives will increase spending on free- and low-cost spay-and-neuter services by 50%, or to $750,000, in fiscal year 2027, according to budget documents reviewed by The Post.

A separate $750,000 will go to a first-of-its-kind pilot pet-food pantry, the council's animal welfare caucus said in a social media post last week.

"These investments will help reduce animal overpopulation, ease pressure on the shelter system, and ensure that New Yorkers are not forced to choose between basic needs and feeding their pets," the group wrote.

Flatbush Cats, a charity looking after stray and feral felines, will be a primary provider of the subsidized spay-and-neuter services funded by a $500,000 baseline grant.

Other funds will be spread among additional animal-care centers and nonprofits.

The pilot-project yearlong pet-food pantry is being spearheaded by $250,000 in funding to the Department of Social Services.

The pet pantry's $750,000 — doled out through the City Council's discretionary funds — is still being sorted among groups, said animal welfare caucus Chair Harvey Epstein. *Hannah Fierick*

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CONNECTICUT
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POST CONTACTS

Editorial
Main Office ..... (212) 930-8000
News Tips ..... (212) 930-8500
Sports Desk ..... (212) 930-8700

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Hey, it's wheely J-Law

Jennifer Lawrence is incognito — in that celebrity trying almost too hard not to be noticed way — in a ball cap and shades, as the 35-year-old Oscar winner pedals around the Big Apple this week on a Citi Bike.

Christopher Peterson / SplashNews.com

LESS IS AMOUR AT WORK

Office flings down

By GEORGIA WORRELL

Looks like Cupid didn't survive layoffs.

Office romances are going cold across the US — where workplace crushes, coworker dates and steamy office flings are becoming less common every year, survey data shows.

Just 22% of employees surveyed by the human resources group SHRM last year said they had a workplace crush — a staggering drop from the 49% who admitted the same in 2024.

Only 16% said they'd gone on a date with a colleague in the past year, down from 21% the previous year.

Workplace hookups are becoming even more rare. Just 7% of employees admitted to having a "risky romantic encounter" on the job in 2025 — down from the 13% who confessed to an office romp the year before.

But it's not just a short-term thrill that's vanishing.

The workplace used to be a major source of finding a husband or wife. About 20% of adults over 50 said they met their spouse on the job, according to a 2020 Pew Research Center survey.

Only 13% of people aged 18 to 29 said the same.

Writer Juno Kelly suggested in a provocatively headlined New York Times column, "Go On, Date Your Co-Workers" that this was caused by the rise of online dating among younger people and extensive HR sexual harassment training.

"It feels as if the risk outweighs the reward," she wrote.

However, Kelly suggested that returning to more responsible office dating culture could solve Gen Z's dating blahs.

More than a third of singles under 30 said they were not interested in dating, and half said they were not looking.

"Where else in adulthood except the office would you bond with a potential paramour you share so much of everyday life with?" Kelly suggested.

Business & pleasure

Other old-school ways of finding love — through church, friends, college or neighbors — also saw sharp declines across generations, according to a Stanford study, which found that 40% of couples were meeting online by 2017.

Among the relatively small share of workers still mixing business with pleasure, more than half said they were hoping to find true love.

Another 40% admitted they were motivated by excitement, adventure or lust, while nearly 30% said they were seeking career advancements, security or power through office romance, according to the survey by SHRM, which stands for Society for Human Resource Management.

About one in five of those workers also confessed to engaging in public displays of affection on the job.

Surprisingly, 63% of office managers surveyed said that romances between people on their team had a positive impact on workplace dynamics, while only 12% said they had a negative effect.

Bx. Zoo eyes 'pach'ing it up

She's got a big trunk to pack.

New York City's last remaining elephant may be trading the concrete jungle for a wildlife sanctuary in Tennessee.

The Bronx Zoo is weighing moving Patty, a 57-year-old Asian elephant, months after another elephant, Happy, was euthanized, officials said Tuesday.

While socialization is vital for elephants, Bronx Zoo director Craig Piper said Patty is not showing signs of distress. Still, zoo officials recently visited the 3,000-acre Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee to assess whether relocation would be suitable.

No decision on her future has been made. *Zoe Hussain and Katherine Donlevy*

HIGH ANXIETY

Alarming history of problems at the site

The buckling Midtown high-rise dramatically evacuated over collapse fears Tuesday was cited for a slew of dangerous construction safety violations last year, The Post has learned.

The city Department of Buildings slapped seven violations on the 37-story commercial building at 235 E. 42nd St. near Second Avenue between July and December 2025, resulting in a total of more than $32,000 in fines, agency records show.

The violations included the site not adhering to plans laid out in submitted construction documents, a lack of pre-shift safety communication and the failure to report an incident that "resulted in a fatality or injury," documents show.

The site's general contractor, Robert Travis of 235 GC LLC, was first dinged in July 2025 when a piece of window glass fell from the eighth floor and hit a sidewalk shed after an "active demo and alteration job."

The next month, a piece of metal fell off the building from the 33rd floor level and landed on the sidewalk below. Inspectors discovered workers didn't communicate required information during a pre-shift safety meeting.

In December, a worker also fell 6 feet from a platform ladder while dismantling a crane, DOB documents said. Inspectors later found the ladder was not on a flat, level surface. More than two dozen bystander complaints also have been submitted to the DOB about the site, where construction started in 2024.

They include an April call reporting debris falling from "high heights" and a March incident where a worker was allegedly "blowing material off of the roof . . . with a leaf blower."

In October, a caller told the Buildings Department, "Today, a large item fell and broke through 5 floors and almost hit someone.

"There are gas machines without proper ventilation. These are hazardous conditions," the person claimed. Other complainants claimed objects were falling from "high up" and landing on the sidewalk, including electrical equipment, in August.

At least four separate lawsuits filed against the building in 2025 and 2026 also alleged unsafe work conditions at the site.

Nicole Rosenthal

E 45th St
E 44th St
E 43rd St
E 42nd St
E 41st St
E 40th St
3rd Ave
2nd Ave
1st Ave
815 2nd Ave
220 E 42nd St
235 E 42nd St
210 E 43rd St
211 E 43rd St
212 E 43rd St
235 E 43rd St
225 E 43rd St
231 E 43rd St
and officials instituted a from , barring all pedestrian and vehicle traffic for fear the building could shower debris below.

Weak beams force evac of 42nd St. build

By JOE MARINO, ANNA YOUNG and MATT TROUTMAN

A Midtown high-rise undergoing a massive renovation suddenly buckled Tuesday, its weakened beams "bending like cigarettes" and a swath of streets dramatically evacuated as officials warned the structure was "shifting" and could partially collapse.

The 37-story former Pfizer headquarters at 235 E. 42nd St. near Second Avenue rained bricks down on the street and remained dangerously unstable through the day as city officials mounted a desperate effort to avert catastrophe.

The perilous problem stemmed from two load-bearing columns buckling on the building's 21st floor, leaving 11 still-under-construction new floors above it potentially at risk of pancaking inward, said FDNY Chief of Department John Esposito.

"The way this building is constructed, it's a steel-frame building, so it would not be a total collapse, it would be more of a localized collapse," he told reporters.

"That remains our concern — that it's moving . . . We have seen continual movement. It does mean it is not stable."

The skyscraper's shifting stopped later Tuesday, city officials said.

A team of six people — safety and engineering specialists from the city Department of Buildings, the FDNY and a contractor — then undertook the hazardous mission of venturing inside to begin assessing how and when workers might shore up the affected areas, a City Hall official said.

Inspectors took an elevator to the 17th floor and walked all the way up to the 31st floor, NBC said, citing an administration official.

On their way near the top, they stopped on the 21st floor, where the damaged columns were, and determined there was no further movement of the building, officials said.

Area blocks closed

Crews were then working to "finalize a plan for how they're going to reinforce the structure," which was being converted from commercial offices to residential apartments.

As the experts engaged in the high-stakes, high-altitude assessment, nine blocks of Midtown East remained sealed off to thousands of everyday New Yorkers, commuters and tourists.

Nine buildings — including the afflicted high-rise near Grand Central Terminal — were evacuated as a precaution, officials said. The affected structures included a school with 400 students, a hotel, Israel's New York Consulate and the newsrooms of PIX11 and NewsNation.

NYPD and FDNY officials instituted a "frozen zone" from East 40th to 45th streets between First and Third avenues, barring all pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

By nightfall, authorities shrunk the zone to just East 42nd and East 43rd streets between Second and Third avenues after crews performed emergency shoring work and were confident the tower was "stabilizing."

"If there is any movement or if there's any movement, we have protocols in place to make sure we're quickly removing people outside the building to evaluate and reassess," city Buildings

AT TIPPY TOWER

@FDNY

HEIGHTENED CONCERNS: Construction-site onlookers at 42nd Street and Second Avenue Tuesday point to the area where beams were buckling and causing the building to become unstable.

Neighborhood danger zone

By FENIX SURIEL, GEORGETT ROBERTS, XAVIER SERRANO, REUVEN FENTON and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

Midtown residents, workers and tourists ran for their lives from homes and offices near a buckling building Tuesday — and now have no idea when they can return to the evacuated "frozen zone" around the site.

Nine buildings had to be suddenly cleared after 8 a.m. when crucial support columns began caving in the under-construction 37-story former Pfizer headquarters on East 42nd Street near Second Avenue — and City Hall would not say when anyone might be able to return to the area.

"Evacuate! Everybody out!" an employee at the Westin Hotel at 212 E. 42nd St. screamed over the loudspeaker in the morning, sending customers and workers fleeing. Three tourists from North Carolina were set to stay at the Westin for four days before an ocean cruise, but they are now adrift without a place to bed down.

"I saw a breaking-news story pop up on Twitter," said one of the three, Nika Whitsett, 33. "I opened it and saw the streets. I said, 'Oh, 42nd and Second. That's where we're headed!' "

The hotel sent an email to patrons Tuesday evening saying, "The latest update is the site of concern remains a safety risk, indicating the evacuation order will not be lifted anytime soon and will last well into the night, at the earliest."

It was allowing them to briefly return to their rooms to get their belongings.

A 22-year-old recent college grad who moved into an apartment on East 44th Street between Second and Third avenues just two days ago was trudging to her sister's place across town — with two pieces of luggage and a bag of groceries in tow. "I woke up because there were a ton of sirens and like police megaphones telling people to get out of the intersection," said the young woman, who gave only her first name, Allie.

"I went to pack a bag, and then they started banging on the doors, and the Fire Department was saying that it might be like two weeks until we can get back — I'm really hoping that that's some very cautious estimate," she said.

"I don't even have a bed yet."

'Now I'm stuck'

Dr. Stefan Mitrasinovic, who lives at East 41st Street and First Avenue, said he returned from a 24-hour shift at a Bronx neurosurgery unit to the mess.

"I slept an hour or two after my shift to be safe to drive, and then I came home thinking I'd be able to go home and get to sleep some more, but now I'm stuck," Mitrasinovic said.

"Worst-case scenario, I probably will have to find a hotel somewhere," the doctor said. "There's no other option. I can't just wait forever."

Sitting at a nearby flower bed was Mercy Muriungi, 52, who is based in Texas but was in her part-time East 44th Street apartment at 9 a.m. when she got the notification demanding she evacuate.

"I just grabbed my purse. I thought this was gonna be more like a drill," Muriungi said.

"I haven't taken out the trash, I left all my medicine in there. I had to walk over to the pharmacy to see if they would give me some medicine for a day or two," she said.

The Mamdani administration only said a team of experts had gone into the building by the afternoon and "we have determined that the contractors onsite can move forward with the installation of temporary shoring to stabilize the building."

Commissioner Ahmed Tigani said at a late night press conference. "But right now we have been in a stable and safe situation."

The building itself was cleared of hardhats shortly after 8 a.m. when panicked workers spotted two faulty support beams bending and starting to give way on the 21st floor, officials said.

Only construction workers were in the building at the time and made it out safely. No injuries were reported.

'Bending like cigarettes'

"The I-beams are bending like cigarettes in there, which is super-dangerous," Local 638 steamfitter Cliff Johnsen told reporters.

The floors sagged in the affected section and multiple cracks appeared, officials said.

The building is considered one of the largest commercial-to-residential conversion projects nationwide, with 1,600 apartments slated by 2027. The site has been under reconstruction since 2024, a DOB rep said.

Contractors had been adding 11 new floors on top of a 22-story section of the building, Tigani said.

The buckling beams appeared to be located near where the old and new building sections intersected.

MetroLoft, a company specializing in office-to-residence conversions, undertook the project.

Records show at least seven "construction safety enforcement" violations issued by Department of Buildings officials for a general contractor at the address between July and December 2025, with more than $32,000 in penalties paid.

The same general contractor — MetroLoft's 235 GC LLC — was working on the project in which the beams buckled, according to city buildings officials.

"First and foremost, we want to thank the FDNY, NYPD and DOB for their quick response," a MetroLoft rep told The Post.

"The safety of everyone at and surrounding the building is our number-one priority. We're thankful there were no injuries, and as the DOB clarified no debris fell from the building.

"We want to confirm that the affected area is a small section of one of the two buildings on this site. As the FDNY spokesperson noted, the entire building itself is not at risk of collapse."

Tigani said the cause of the buckling will be investigated but only after the structure itself is made safe.

Additional reporting by Haley Brown and Nicole Rosenthal

U.S. strike force

Hits Iran for firing on ships in strait

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS and VICTOR NAVA

Reuters

TENSE TIMES: A US wave of bombardment at military targets in Iran came Tuesday in response to Tehran's attacks on ships attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

The US on Tuesday launched "powerful strikes" on Iran and canceled its lucrative oil waiver in "heavy" payback for Tehran attacking ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Trump administration called Tehran's firing of missiles and drones at three commercial ships "wholly unacceptable" and a violation of the cease-fire terms set out through the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed last month.

The US hit Iran both militarily and financially in response.

"The Office of Foreign Assets Control is revoking GL X, which authorized the sale of Iranian oil," a US official told The Post. "As President Trump and the administration have repeatedly affirmed, the MOU in effect with Iran is entirely performance-based."

Shortly after, US Central Command said its forces had "begun launching a series of powerful strikes against Iran to impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking commercial shipping crewed by innocent civilians in an international waterway.

"Iran's demonstrated aggression was unwarranted, dangerous and a clear violation of the cease-fire," it said.

An Iranian state-run media outlet reported several explosions being heard near the coastal city of Sirik and on the island of Qeshm in southern Iran, according to Al Jazeera.

US forces struck Iranian air defense systems, command and control networks, coastal radar sites, anti-ship missile capabilities and more than 60 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps boats "in and near the strait to degrade Iran's ability to continue attacking international commerce flowing through the international trade corridor," according to CENTCOM.

In total, more than 80 targets were hit with precision munitions, the combatant command said.

The last round of US military strikes in Iran took place late last month, in response to the regime's drone attack against a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian drone-storage facilities and coastal radar sites were hit by US warplanes in the June 26 strikes.

Tuesday's hits were described by a US official as "four or five times bigger in scope and power" than last month's, according to Axios.

"This response is a direct result of the acts of international terrorism that have been perpetrated by Iran on innocent ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz," a US official told The Post.

"The Iranians know the consequences to their ridiculous actions, yet they still chose to carry out these attacks," the official added.

The restart of the military campaign comes after Iran on Monday fired weapons at two commercial ships — tankers from the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia — following up with an attack on a Qatar-flagged tanker on Tuesday.

Each caused damage, with the projectiles sparking fires onboard.

"Iran will only reap benefits if they exhibit good behavior," the US official said. "Iran's actions in the strait were wholly unacceptable to the United States and will be met with consequences."

The sanctions waiver and a cease-fire were key provisions in the US-Iran memorandum of understanding signed last month — but so was Iran reopening the strait.

Lucrative waiver

The lucrative waiver for Iran brought instant relief to its desperate economy following months of a US blockade on Iranian ports in addition to the long-standing sanctions.

It was originally intended to continue through Aug. 21, giving Iran the ability to openly sell its oil for the first time since the 1990s and allowing it to pocket new profits by charging market rate.

The change was estimated to bring in an estimated $10 billion for the full two-month window of waived sanctions — without Tehran having to charge a drastically reduced rate paid under the table.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry claimed the airstrikes were a "gross violation" of the MOU and warned "of the consequences of America's breach of the agreement."

An Iranian source told The Post the move will likely "imperil" future peace negotiations — with another round having been tentatively scheduled for Saturday.

Still, the US official said American negotiators "continue to work in good faith towards a final deal."

Isr.-Leb. deal to put MOU to test

The Trump administration's new Israel-Lebanon deal isn't separate from its landmark memorandum of understanding with Iran — it's the first major test of whether the agreement can prevent another regional war that could again drag the US back into conflict, a US government official told The Post.

The deal allows Israel Defense Forces to remain in southern Lebanon until Hezbollah is disarmed and the Lebanese Armed Forces can manage the terror group's threat to both countries — a provision the official said reinforces Beirut's sovereignty, as envisioned in the MOU.

Does "Lebanese sovereignty" mean Israel must leave immediately — as Iran argues — or does it mean Lebanon's desire to crack down on Hezbollah is respected and supported, as the US contends?

Iran rejects the latter interpretation, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arguing last month the Israel-Lebanon agreement itself violates the US-Iran MOU.

"Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end," he said.

While the document calls for "ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon" — which the US official claimed was accomplished with the agreement — Iran considers the language about "sovereignty" to mean Israel leaves the country immediately.

The US believes the agreement reflects the decisions of two sovereign governments — Israel and Lebanon — rather than terms imposed by Tehran, making Iran's objections a challenge to the very Lebanese sovereignty the MOU seeks to protect. *Caitlin Doornbos*

GC Images

Oh my Maya, it's 'Love' at first sight

British television host Maya Jama made her US television debut Tuesday, appearing on "Good Morning America" while turning heads in a sleek two-piece black leather dress. The 31-year-old host of "Love Island UK" dished on all of the drama unfolding in season 13 of the hit reality dating show, currently airing on Hulu.

'Wheels' killer selfie

"Hell on Wheels" killer Mackenzie Shirilla shared this new dead-eyed, pouty-faced selfie from behind bars after her latest legal setback.

Supporters of the 21-year-old convicted murderer posted the prison flick on her Instagram account this week, stating Shirilla is "trying to do better every day and holding on to hope."

Shirilla, whose case was the focus of a hit Netflix documentary "The Crash," is locked up at the Ohio Reformatory for Women after car wreck in July 2022 killed her boyfriend Dominic Russo, 20, and friend Davion Flanagan, 19.

She is serving 15 years to life in prison for intentionally slamming her car into a wall in Strongsville at 100 mph.

She was found guilty in 2023 of four counts of felonious assault and two counts of aggravated vehicular homicide, breaking down in tears as the judge called her "literal hell on wheels."

The Ohio Supreme Court rejected Shirilla's latest appeal for post-conviction relief in late June.

Shirilla will be eligible for parole in 2037. *Zoe Hussain*

THIS JOB A 'GAME' CHANGER

'Jeopardy!' hiring

By FARAN KRENTCIL

What is "total dream job?"

For the first time in eons, "Jeopardy!" is hiring a new clue writer.

The ideal candidate should "demonstrate wit and clarity" — and must also be able to pass the show's infamous contestant quiz, where topics range from US geography to opera, science and superhero sidekicks.

And talk about revenge of the nerds — whoever scores the gig will earn anywhere from a cool $132,000 up to $178,000, according to internally posted numbers.

Like editing Vogue or playing for the Knicks, writing for "Jeopardy!" is considered an elite tier gig — one that's almost impossible to get.

The show has enjoyed enduring popularity across all demographics, and is beloved for its ability to mix highbrow facts with goofy word games. A recent episode asked contestants to name periodic table elements — then define "a C.S. Lewis Narnia book that showed off a little too much at the Super Bowl Halftime Show." (Answer: "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe Malfunction.")

Write answers

Scoring the job will be harder than betting it all on Daily Double. Wannabe clue crew members must submit to the standard Jeopardy! Anytime online quiz — which screens for show contestants by asking 50 questions, with just 15 seconds to answer each one.

Expect toughies, like: "Scene by the Brook is one movement of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, known as this." (The answer is "Pastoral.")

After proving your trivia prowess, you'll need to create possible clues for 12 categories across business, food, history, pop culture and science.

Next, the Culver City, Calif.-based game show wants you to pen three Final Jeopardy clues — then fact-check and prove them without the use of AI or Wikipedia. Research sites like the Oxford English Dictionary and links to major newspapers, including The Post, are fair game.

Rare opportunity

If you get buzzed into the hallowed halls of America's favorite quiz show, you'll join a tight-knit team of brainiacs that includes a former "Seinfeld" background actor, a "Star Trek: Voyager" writer and a onetime New York City doorman.

Most have been with the show for over 10 years — several since the 1990s. IMDb lists the team at just 10 people.

"Jeopardy!" began its current epic TV run in 1984 and begins filming its 43rd season in August.

After longtime host Alex Trebek died of pancreatic cancer in 2020, producer Mike Richards and actress Mayim Biyalik stepped in, followed by super-winner Ken Jennings, who won over $4 million during his initial run.

The game's celebrity contestants have included Ray Romano and Rachel Dratch, while Oprah Winfrey and even Kermit the Frog have presented clues.

If you think you can make it on the show's big blue board, applications are now open at Sony Pictures' website.

How America can become world-class

KIRSTEN FLEMING

WHY IT WASN'T 'US'

ON Monday night, USMNT's manager Mauricio Pochettino's audacious rally cry, "Why Not US," was unfortunately answered. It's because against Belgium, we stunk.

We just wanted to continue to feel the unity, momentum, awesome vibes and the belief, which Pochettino's squad crop-dusted into the ether.

We started to believe, perhaps naively, that our country's moment on the pitch had arrived.

After beating Paraguay (4-1), Australia (2-0) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2-0), maybe we'd finally become the force the prophets promised.

However, against Belgium the USMNT took the field in a stupor, making defensive mistakes that would be unforgivable at the youth level. The team was too timid and a step too slow to the ball. They played flat. Perhaps it wouldn't feel so bad if we had gone down kicking and screaming. Nope, our men went down like an ice-cold beer on a 98-degree day: quick and easy.

RED, WHITE & BRUISED: Like Tim Ream (left) and Sebastian Berhalter, fans were dejected in defeat.

Belgium ruthlessly rubbed it in with a little Trump dance.

Predictably, the hangover has played out all over X — a litany of diagnoses as to why our national soccer program continues to fall short, despite having a country of roughly 345 million people.

Among the explanations: there's no unstructured street ball culture like there is in hoops; the best athletes gravitate toward other sports; or the cost of elite soccer is too prohibitive, favoring the wealthy.

House of Strauss' Ethan Strauss argued that we are missing the "generational tissue" to seamlessly pass the love of the game from fathers to sons like we do in other sports. I recall Christian Pulisic in HBO's docuseries, "US Against The World" saying that he was raised in Hershey, Pa., where no one gave a rat's behind about soccer.

Of course, our soccer academy system that develops players lags behind other countries, which have had a singular focus on the sport for a century.

An autopsy would find many diseases — some more detrimental than others.

An English friend who has worked in European football at the top level noted most people are lucky to see their country win a World Cup in their lifetime. "It's the memories we make along the way that make it so rewarding," he said.

Blah blah blah. Or to quote Bill Murray in "Stripes" — "We're Americans! With a Capital A."

We want to win. We expect to dominate.

However, Americans are optimistic. Even through the criticism of a premature elimination and an unrealized dream of advancing on US soil, there were beautiful takeaways.

We did feel a palpable movement within our own culture. Americans engaged in unprecedented ways. We fell in love with international fans falling in love with us.

In stadiums across the country, US fans overpaid for tickets so they could paint their faces, don their best red, white and blue and take in the glory of a live international game. They packed bars and streets to be in communion with each other.

The match against Belgium averaged 30 million viewers — the biggest soccer audience in American television history.

Even here in New York City it was exhilarating. I slid into a packed Conall's Public House in the East Village. As the national anthem blared through the gazillion televisions, nearly every patron stood at attention, hand over their hearts. It was enough to make me well up.

And when Malik Tillman tied the game for those brief moments, the place erupted into USA chants that lingered longer than usual.

As the game slipped away, people looked dejected. Our hearts broke. We gave a damn.

Perhaps the more we care, the more we're willing to devote ourselves to finally ascend on the world stage. And maybe in four years, "Why Not US" will be a promise, not the start of a list of problems.

Portnoy berates Yanks

Dave Portnoy railed against the "pathetic" USMNT in an expletive-filled social-media rant for the "embarrassing effort" in their blowout loss to Belgium Monday night.

"Embarrassing effort from the United States. Lights were way too bright for US soccer team. Stage way too big," Portnoy wrote on X after Belgium's dominant 4-1 victory in Seattle.

The Barstool Sports founder recorded himself ripping off his USA soccer hat and jersey as he lashed out moments after the final whistle.

"We're a f--king joke. That game was a f--king joke," Portnoy said.

He called for a draft if America was gonna keep getting into "international incidents," after US officials got involved with the World Cup officiating to have Folarin Balogun's one-game ban overturned.

"If we are gonna keep making an international incident in FIFA and Trump's gonna bully them and s--t and everyone's gonna be like the angry Americans, then we're gonna have to start instituting a draft in soccer," Portnoy said. "Hey LeBron, no offense, you're going to play f--king soccer."

Nicholas McEntyre

Nat'l Mall fan fight

Wild video shows hordes of soccer fans brawling inside a FIFA Fanzone on Washington's National Mall during the US-Belgium World Cup clash, which the USMNT ultimately lost 4-1.

Unruly fans scuffled and some threw punches amid Monday's chaotic scenes that escalated after an argument between two people, WJLA reported Tuesday.

Other fans caused chaos by hurling water from plastic bottles and throwing punches of their own.

One person was escorted out of the fan zone, a US Park Police spokesperson told WJLA. *Chris Bradford*

AP

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1. Source: 2025 Profitero Price Wars Study. Based on national analysis of 10,000+ identical products across 23 leading U.S. online retailers.
2. Source: 2025 JAMA Network Study. Pharmacy Subscription Program and Medication Refills, Days' Supply, and Out-of-Pocket Costs.

Now Dems pull plug

Cynical lefty politics

'MY kinda man!"

That's how Sen. Elizabeth Warren described Graham Platner during a campaign event as she endorsed the US Senate wannabe from Maine.

That's a badge of shame that she, and dozens of other top Democrats, must wear for all time.

Platner was Warren's kind of man even after Americans found out about the Nazi symbol he wore on his chest for close to two decades.

She stood behind him after it emerged that Platner said women concerned about rape should "take some responsibility for themselves and not get so f--ked up they wind up having sex with someone they don't mean to."

And after we learned he had written "I dig it" next to an online video of Hamas terrorists murdering Israeli soldiers.

Lefties pull the plug

Now, months later, Warren — along with Sen. Bernie Sanders and countless other erstwhile Platner fans — have finally pulled the plug on their support for the progressive wunderkind.

I've known the name Graham Platner for years: He'd had a tumultuous relationship with one of my best friends, Lyndsey Fifield, more than a decade ago. I was shocked last summer when she told us that he'd be running for Senate.

That's when she dropped another bombshell about him: "He has a Nazi tattoo on his chest," she said.

Months later, Platner appeared on the "Pod Save America" podcast to wave away the ink's existence with a cover-up tale the "Pod" bros pretended to believe.

But now even they have changed their tune, after Politico dropped another ex-girlfriend's harrowing allegation that Platner once barged into her home and raped her.

"Platner needs to drop out ASAP — these are awful, credible allegations," "Pod" co-host Jon Favreau wrote on X late Monday.

Tattoo tumult

In a rational world, an actual Nazi tattoo would have meant Platner's instant disqualification by national Democrats.

So should Fifield's account of Platner's domestic violence, described last month in a New York Times report that whitewashed allegations from her and several other ex-girlfriends.

But even the details that survived the Times' "catch and kill" story should have made Platner ballot-box poison: They painted a picture of a man willing to use his physical strength as a weapon against women.

They did not — because the Times took pains to center Fifield and her conservative political background in its report.

Now, finally, Democrats have found their bright red line.

It wasn't the many previous accusations — and it wasn't even Monday's documented allegation of rape.

The line was simply this: Platner had begun to drop in the polls.

When it looked like he could grab a Senate seat away from the Republicans, Democrats were thrilled to boost him on their principle-free, vibes-based nonplatform.

Now they can't jettison him fast enough.

But the rest of us should never let them forget it.

Platner's stain must shame them all — and should keep these craven fiends far, far away from the power they so desperately seek.

Bethany Mandel writes and podcasts at The Mom Wars.

MAINE-IAC

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — Maine Democratic candidate Graham Platner appears to be holding the Democratic Party hostage and is refusing to drop out after being accused of rape unless he gets to approve his successor to run for the Senate, The Post has learned.

A source familiar with the campaign discussions said Platner, his campaign and political strategist Morris Katz are deliberating about the Maine Democrat dropping out but only if his replacement shares his left-wing values.

And the clock is ticking for Dems — there's a deadline of Monday for the 41-year-old oyster farmer to withdraw. If he does, state party officials will then initiate what they've promised will be an "open" and "transparent" process to choose another candidate for the ballot.

"This vibes to me like a play from Bernie Sanders to slide in Troy Jackson," another source said.

'Delusional team'

The first source quipped that Platner apparently "assumes whoever might replace [him] would want a rapist's endorsement." The candidate has firmly denied an accusation Monday from ex-girlfriend Jenny Racicot of sexual assault.

"His team is delusional," this person said, noting that Katz, the campaign strategist who helped elect Mayor Mamdani, had been recommending Platner stay in the race.

The 27-year-old wunderkind works for Fight Agency, a Democratic political consulting firm that has helped elevate progressive candidates.

"He wants to be the next David Axelrod . . . and Mamdani is his Obama," a third Democratic source added of Katz. "But obviously Mamdani can't be the president, so he's trying to find this white, working-class caricature to take up that mantle."

Katz reportedly headed to Maine later Tuesday to select a replacement candidate after Mamdani publicly called for Platner "to drop out of the race."

Reps for Platner did not respond to a request for comment.

The Maine Democratic Party requested he withdraw the day before after "multiple women have made serious, credible allegations."

Elderly Vermont independent Sanders — who was Platner's biggest backer — reportedly wants former Maine Senate president Troy Jackson to get the Democratic nomination to run against Republican Sen. Susan Collins.

Jackson, a logger-turned-lawmaker who appeared with Platner and Sanders at a "Fight the Oligarchy" rally in May, recently came in third in the state's Democratic gubernatorial primary.

Wheels in motion

Both Maine Dems have backed higher taxes on billionaires and a "Medicare for All," single-payer health care system — with Platner leaning more into foreign policy issues and denouncing US support for Israel as "shameful," accusing the Jewish State of committing "genocide" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The New York Times first reported on the talks that could define the race Democrats' had hoped would be one of their best chances to regain the Senate.

Asked whether Platner's swift hemorrhaging of support in the wake of the allegations from women would force Democratic Party bosses to exert more control over future primaries, strategist James Carville told The Post: "How can they? They don't have any control."

"If you look at what happened to my dear friend Michael Bennett," Carville said, referring to the former moderate Democratic senator and Colorado gubernatorial candidate, "the idea that there's some controlling entity in the Democratic Party — there's a

LEAVE: Maine Senate hopeful Graham Platner (far right with wife Amy Gertner and a guard) stands at home Tuesday as his campaign spirals after sex-assault claims from multiple women, including Jenny Racicot (below).

Robert Miller for NY Post

'Rapist' won't leave Senate race quietly

ULTIMATUM!

Top lefties are grappling with credibility concerns over their embrace of Platner in his Maine Senate bid, despite glaring warning signs. On Monday, supporters finally hit their breaking points. Some dramatic reversals:

BEFORE	AFTER
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)	
Platner is "my kind of man." "That is a man . . . who believes in accountability. And we need a little accountability coming out of Washington right now."	"Now more than ever, we need leaders in Washington who reflect our values. There can be no tolerance for sexual assault."
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)	
"There are no saints in the United States Senate."	"In light of these very serious allegations, I have recommended that he step aside."
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)	
"He has a lot of issues but my God we need the Senate."	"Enough is enough. Graham Platner needs to step aside."
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)	
"One of the things that drives me crazy is our inability to stand by [Democrats] because of some dumb thing . . . they may have said in their past."	He "should drop out of the race. I am withdrawing my endorsement."

King's horrific endorsement

Lefty horror author Stephen King is sticking by Graham Platner — even after the Maine Democratic Senate candidate was accused by his ex-girlfriend of breaking into her home and drunkenly raping her.

Democrats have since pulled their endorsements and urged him to bow out of the race — but not King (right), who said he hopes Platner pushes through because everyone on Capitol Hill has skeletons in their closets.

"Graham Platner may drop out. (I hope he doesn't, but.) Meanwhile, the Abuser in Chief just keeps on keepin' on," the author posted on X.

"If you knew the whole truth about everyone in the Senate and House of Reps, those chambers would be dead empty," he said in a separate post.

King's comments sparked outrage online. *Patrick Reilly*

council of elders — it's just absurd."

"It's not a failure of the Democratic Party . . . The party's being challenged," he added. "If there's any fault with the lack of vetting, it would be with Platner's own campaign."

Jackson submitted a filing with the Federal Election Commission on Tuesday setting up an exploratory committee to replace Platner on the 2026 ballot, the Bangor Daily News first reported.

"This is a 'testing the waters/exploratory' committee," the July 7 filing stated. Its treasurer, Peter Sarasohn, has been earning a salary of roughly $3,000 per month from Sanders' principal campaign committee since January 2025.

If Platner withdraws, Jackson will likely vie with other contenders from the governor's race for the Senate Democratic slot: Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and former CDC Director Nirav Shah, sources said.

Congressional hopeful Jordan Wood, who lost his primary in Maine's Second Congressional District, as well as Maine Beer Company owner Dan Kleban, who launched a Senate bid before withdrawing last year, are also in the running, according to insiders.

Rescinded pledges

Sanders broke his silence on Platner's candidacy on Tuesday, saying in a statement: "I have spoken with Graham Platner about the best path forward for Maine. In light of these very serious allegations, I have recommended that he step aside."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other party leaders have already rescinded their endorsements of Platner in the wake of allegations from the candidate's ex-girlfriend that he raped her in 2021.

Accuser's NYT ire: 'Aimed' to boost Plat

WASHINGTON — The first woman to publicly accuse Maine Democratic Senate candidate Graham Platner of abuse and other violent behavior excoriated The New York Times Tuesday for its reporting of her claims, alleging the Gray Lady played up her story and political views to boost the Platner campaign.

Lyndsey Fifield, who told the outlet that Platner twisted her arm behind her back and locked her in a room — and yanked her out of a cab in a separate incident — charged in a lengthy X post that Times reporters Katie Glueck and Lisa Lerer declined to speak to people best-placed to corroborate her claims.

"I actually understand why Democrat leaders didn't take our stories seriously when the Times reported them in June but are taking them seriously now," Fifield declared on X.

"It was by design. The line most shared from the piece was the claim that the Times 'could not corroborate' my story despite talking to two of my friends. I gave them the contact information for five friends," she further explained.

"They called the two who I clarified would not know about the abuse but would be able to affirm our relationship timeline, events, etc. They simply did not call the other three."

Platner has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, while singling out Fifield's claims as "politically motivated" and "just not true."

On Monday, Maine resident Jenny Racicot — who, unlike Fifield, shares many of Platner's left-wing political views — came forward with graphic rape accusations against the Marine veteran.

Fifield insisted Tuesday she was told by the reporters that "my part in their reporting would be small. I thought my details would only serve to affirm Jenny and the other anonymous woman.

"Jenny and I — having never met or spoken — both shared with these reporters terrifyingly similar details of intimate partner violence, coercive control, and cycles of abuse/love bombing. The third unnamed woman in the story did as well," she concluded.

"But tell me again how they 'could not corroborate.' " *Ryan King*

UES bug came from cooling towers

By CHRIS NESI

HIGH DANGER: Water mist from a cooling unit like this one is the source of an outbreak of Legionnaires' bacteria (inset) on the Upper East Side.

Reuters

LEGIONNAIRES' SOURCE ID'D

Officials have discovered that the outbreak of Legionnaires' disease on the Upper East Side wasn't caused by a building's drinking water system, but by water mist from a cooling tower erected to help New Yorkers beat the heat.

The city has installed 179 cooling towers across the ZIP codes impacted by the outbreak so far (10028, 10128 and 10075) where at least 23 people have been sickened, Council Speaker Julie Menin announced in a letter to residents Monday.

Menin said the cooling towers are in the process of being inspected, and the outbreak was identified "relatively early" thanks to 56 cooling tower inspectors on duty, up from 33 last year, when seven people died during a a summer outbreak in Central Harlem.

"Still, this outbreak was preventable, and the fact that [the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene] has not confirmed the source is troubling."

'Many questions'

Menin pointed to legislation passed by the City Council that took effect in May to toughen requirements for building owners to test cooling towers at least monthly during the warmer months, instead of the previous 90 days between inspections.

The law also requires samples provided by building owners to be logged in a DOHMH database within five days of sampling. Those who fail to comply are subject to fines of between $2,000 and $4,000.

"I have many questions for DOHMH regarding implementation of the law since May 8. I'd like to know what portion of buildings on the Upper East Side required to test have actually done so, what oversight from the agency has looked like, and whether any buildings have received fines thus far," Menin wrote.

The DOHMH did not respond to The Post's request for comment.

According to the state Department of Health website, Legionnaires' disease outbreaks are relatively rare, with between 200-800 cases reported across the state each year, most often in the summertime.

It's a bacterial disease spread through the air, either from a soil or water source, that can manifest as a mild respiratory illness. It can cause full-blown pneumonia or even death in severe cases.

The DOH says all studies to date show that person-to-person transmission does not occur with Legionnaires' disease, but notes that those at highest risk of infection are people aged 50 or older, current or former smokers, those with a chronic lung disease, a weak immune system or those taking drugs to suppress the immune system after a transplant or chemotherapy.

Zo aide rips 'View' for blasting 'hater'

A top aide to Mayor Mamdani reportedly blasted ABC executives over "The View" co-host Sara Haines' on-air criticism of a socialist congressional candidate as an antisemite.

One of Mamdani's aides privately expressed fury to network honchos after Haines said she would "full-blown call" Democratic congressional candidate Darializa Avila Chevalier "an antisemite," during a recent episode of the daytime talk show, according to Semafor.

The Mamdani aide, whose identity wasn't revealed in the report, reportedly warned that Haines' remarks could affect whether Mamdani and other democratic socialist candidates would agree to appear on the show in the future.

The clash came as ABC reportedly declined a request from Mamdani's team to feature two of the mayor's congressional allies — Avila Chevalier, running to represent New York's 13th Congressional District, and Queens Assemblywoman Claire Valdez — on "The View."

According to Semafor, producers told Mamdani's representatives they were proceeding cautiously with candidate bookings while the Federal Communications Commission's equal-time inquiry into the program remains unresolved.

The Post has sought comment from ABC and Mamdani. *Ariel Zilber*

ANDREW GILLUM
Lost to DeSantis in Fla.

Ex-rising star for Dems in drug bust

Disgraced former politician Andrew Gillum, a one-time Democratic Party rising star and CNN political commentator, has been arrested in Alabama on drug-possession charges, according to records.

Gillum, who narrowly lost to Republican Ron DeSantis in the 2018 Florida gubernatorial election, was arrested Thursday in Daphne before being booked for possession of dangerous drugs, marijuana and drug paraphernalia, according to Baldwin County jail records.

He was pulled over for driving erratically and was found with three grams of methamphetamine, eight pre-rolled marijuana joints, four cut straws, three pipes and a bong, according to an incident report obtained by TMZ. He was released the same day, online records show.

Gillum, 46, could face up to a year in jail and a $6,000 fine if he's convicted of the marijuana offense, a Class A misdemeanor in Alabama.

His run-in with the law comes six years after he was found inebriated inside Miami Beach's Mondrian hotel room alongside a male escort and three bags of suspected crystal meth.

Gillum was found in the bathroom vomiting and he was "unable to communicate with the officers due to his inebriated state," cops said at the time.

"While I had too much to drink, I want to be clear that I have never used methamphetamines," he said at the time, according to WESH.

Gillum later checked into rehab — and said he was depressed following his defeat to DeSantis. *Chris Bradford*

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

America 250's pride and joy

Reuters

AMERICA'S 250th birthday inspired one helluva party, from a national outpouring of flag-waving patriots to a glorious parade of tall ships in New York Harbor.

From sea to shining sea, the festivities were bolstered by a timely and unprecedented World Cup pandemonium, with the excitement multiplied by tens of thousands of global visitors cheering on their teams.

Alas, the morning-after headache is a doozy. Our national soccer team crashed and burned on its path to glory and the return of politics-as-usual marks a dramatic comedown from the celebratory highs of the long and very special weekend.

Before the excitement is forgotten, decency compels us to remember the many expressions of joyful pride and what they tell us about our grand nation, and its unique contribution to the entire human race.

The vast majority of Americans, to the chagrin of the political left and their media handmaidens, do indeed love their country. They are deeply proud, and not at all ashamed, of how we got to the top of the heap and how we stay there.

A personal favorite involved the parade of tall ships and the expressions of genuine affection they conveyed from long-term allies on our special birthday.

Watching the harbor events on NBC News, my guard was up for any hints of the legacy media's habit of lapsing into anti-Americanism.

Journos play it straight

Happily, I detected none and was grateful that the network's anchors and reporters appeared to be sharing in the joy of the hot but glorious day. They were fully engaged in what American independence has meant at home and around the world for 250 years — and what it continues to mean, even in these tense and difficult times.

As embodied by our founding documents and their championing of individual rights and limits on government power, the resulting national greatness has been and remains an inspirational example for people around the world.

One obvious aspect of that shining city on the hill is how our extraordinary military might has been used to spread the blessings of freedom and remove the shackles of oppression around the globe.

We also see it in our remarkable standard of living that is propelled by private enterprise, which, when combined with restrained government power, has turned an 18th century event into a living, aspirational example for billions of people.

The celebrations were thus a pleasant diversion from the strained relations America is experiencing with some of those same nations, mostly over the war in Iran.

Additionally, the domestic partisan animosity that is directed at President Trump on a daily basis also took a holiday respite.

Days that were jammed with over-the-top patriotic activities highlighted the fact that he was the right president for this special moment. His unabashed American boosterism is genuine, as is his vision for a grand future, although they can get diluted when he digresses into personal boasting.

But he acted entirely appropriately during the weekend's numerous events, including his stirring speech at Mount Rushmore.

Predictably, a sour note came from the Associated Press account of the event, which accused him of switching from "soaring rhetoric about American exceptionalism" to "a darkly political speech with warnings about a sinister threat of communism that evoked one of the country's ugliest chapters."

Snark from the AP

His sin, to the AP, was to say "communism is a mortal threat to American liberty," and "the greatest threat to our country, including World War I, World War II, Pearl Harbor or even 9/11."

The outlet felt compelled to allege that his language "evoked the Red Scare of the 1950s, when alleged communists were persecuted and blacklisted from jobs across America, from Washington to Hollywood."

The AP also revealed its disdain for all things Trump by saying his remarks fell short of Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford, two previous Republican presidents who gave important speeches at the iconic spot.

The snarky coverage ended the reverie and heralded a fresh outbreak of Trump Derangement Syndrome. And this time it wasn't limited to blue state Dems and their rabid media megaphones.

This time, TDS went fully global. And it's still spreading.

It was probably only a matter of time given America's rattled relations with much of Europe. But it was impossible to predict that the spark would be a World Cup ruling that suspended one of America's top players from the crucial soccer match Monday.

Trump, who was instrumental in his first term in making the deal for America to be the major host of the world tournament, did what any American president should have done, but most probably would not have.

In fact, he was far from alone in seeing the ban against star striker Folarin Balogun as excessive, especially considering precedents and the circumstances.

As the president described his phone call to the head of the soccer governing body, he told reporters that he merely asked FIFA President Gianni Infantino for "a review," because Trump found it excessive to ban a player from participating in the next game.

"It's one thing to penalize somebody for the game, but how do you penalize them for a game that hasn't been played yet?" he said. "It's very unfair. You can't do that. So, yes, I asked for a review by FIFA."

Independent decision

Infantino said after the decision was made that Trump's call did not affect the lifting of the penalty.

The leftist media wasn't buying any of it, and showed their stripes with claims such as this one in The Athletic, owned by The New York Times: "A United States defeat against Belgium was probably the political outcome" Infantino wanted.

There they go, mind-reading again.

Most Democrats had the good sense to remain silent, lest they confirm the growing suspicion that they hate Trump more than they love America.

An exception was California US Rep. Sam Liccardo, who objected to Trump even raising the issue with FIFA. He wrote on social media that "we can't win this way," and "I won't cheer FIFA's capitulation to power."

After the ruling, he told Politico "this outcome after this corruption summit between FIFA and Donald Trump accentuates the distaste for many."

Tellingly, his message echoed the tone of the victors. Following the 4-1 thrashing of the American squad, Belgium's team used its X account to send a triumphant message that read, simply, "Overturn this."

To the victor goes the spoils, and the Belgium players made the point on the field after the game, with a celebration that featured them imitating Trump's iconic dance in front of their joyous fans.

Dreams of an American soccer championship have been dashed, but more important is that the sights, sounds and joy of the 250th celebration were genuine.

May they spur America's resolve to continue the fight for the independence of the human spirit for the next 250 years.

MAN OF THE HOUR: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivers a keynote address at Tuesday's 36th NATO Heads of State and Government Summit in Ankara, Turkey, where he will meet with President Trump.

Ukraine Presidency/AFP/Getty Images

Ukr. seeks better deal

Has new leverage

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS and EMILY GOODIN

Ukraine has moved past the 28-point draft plan to end the war with Russia and is pushing for a better deal now that the battlefield conditions have changed, officials told The Post.

Ahead of a critical sit-down between President Trump and President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday at the NATO summit, Kyiv is shifting away from a specific US-backed peace framework and toward convincing Trump that Ukraine still holds key leverage in the fight.

There are no plans for a US-Ukraine-Russia summit and no structured discussions around a specific peace agreement, a change from last year when active talks were underway, Ukraine officials say.

The absence of negotiations has allowed Ukraine to improve its footing and "gives us reason to think more creatively about ending the war," Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Olha Stefanishyna told The Post.

Ukrainian officials see Trump's growing frustration with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin as an opportunity to pressure the Kremlin to stop its war.

"Ukraine has always been ready for substantial diplomatic engagement and remains committed to achieving a just and lasting peace," Stefanishyna said. "Unfortunately, the Russian leader has shown no genuine interest in ending the war."

Ukrainian officials believe ending the conflict will require changing the balance of pressure on Moscow rather than negotiating another version of the same peace proposal.

'Other paths forward'

"A cease-fire doesn't have to come from endlessly debating a single peace plan. There are other paths forward, and I hope Presidents Trump and Zelensky will discuss those opportunities at the NATO summit," Stefanishyna said.

Zelensky and his NATO allies have spent recent weeks trying to demonstrate to Trump that Ukraine has leverage beyond the battlefield, including its combat experience, intelligence capabilities and role in European security.

The effort comes as Trump has grown increasingly frustrated with Moscow after months of diplomatic efforts failed to produce a breakthrough.

Slams Euro allies & lauds TRUMP TALKS TURKEY ON NATO

By STEVEN NELSON

Anadolu via Getty Images

ANKARA, Turkey — President Trump blasted his fellow NATO leaders Tuesday ahead of the alliance's annual summit — after receiving an over-the-top reception from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who welcomed Trump on the tarmac before offering his motorcade a horseback escort through the Turkish capital.

"I was very disappointed with NATO, and frankly if [the summit] weren't held in Turkey, where my friend happens to be a very strong leader ... it's possible that I wouldn't have attended," Trump told reporters after arriving inside Erdogan's presidential compound.

Trump lavished praise on his host and scorn on prominent European members of the alliance, after Turkish cavalry riders — two brandishing American and Turkish flags — trotted alongside the Beast following Trump's arrival in Ankara aboard the new Air Force One.

The president even uttered a rare foreign-language greeting to the honor guard — translated to "hello, soldiers" — before passing costumed re-enactors showing off weapons and uniforms from Turkey's long history.

Erdogan, who grabbed Trump's arm as he escorted him across an aqua-blue carpet rolled out for the occasion, basked in his closeness to the US president as he tries to finalize deals on resumed sales of F-35 jets and enhance Turkey's status as a close American ally in the region.

Trump praised Turkey for assisting with the Iran conflict while condemning the leaders of the UK, Italy, Germany and France for refusing to allow US forces to use their military bases to launch attacks on Iran and balking at helping reopen the Strait of Hormuz — saying "we weren't treated well" by the European nations.

'Hurt relationship'

"We didn't need any help at all, and in a way, I was testing people. I was testing to see whether or not they'd be there," the president said three months after threatening to withdraw from NATO. "It-

host nation after warm welcome

HORSE AROUND: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomes President Trump on the tarmac after Air Force One landed in Ankara on Tuesday ahead of the annual NATO summit. The president's motorcade was then escorted by Turkish cavalry (opposite page).

Reuters

aly turned us down, and Germany turned us down, and France turned us down. And that's OK. But why are we spending hundreds of billions of dollars and they're not there for us? We've always been there for them."

It's unclear how much Trump's bitterness over the snubs will bear on the NATO summit, where US officials say the president plans to prioritize boosting European defense spending, including instituting a mandatory 5%-of-GDP spending pledge unveiled last year.

While taking reporters' questions, Trump reignited another point of contention by repeating his demand that the US acquire Greenland from Denmark — before suggesting that "we could remove all our soldiers out of Europe."

"Well, that's what hurt my relationship with NATO," the president said of the controversy.

"Greenland doesn't help Denmark, Denmark doesn't really spend money to help Greenland, but it's an important part for the United States. And it's surrounded by Chinese ships and Russian ships," he said. "That should be controlled by the United States, not by Denmark.

"And when they wouldn't go along with it, and with all the money we spend to help them with Russia — and we don't have to spend any money, we could remove all of our soldiers out of Europe, because as you probably noticed, Europe is a very different place than it was 20 years ago," Trump added.

"And they better be careful with immigration and energy — if they aren't careful with those two things, you're not going to have a Europe anymore."

Jet-ban nix riles GOPers, Israel

ANKARA, Turkey — President Trump said Tuesday that he will lift sanctions that restrict the sale of military equipment to Turkey — potentially paving the way for the provision of F-35 stealth fighter jets over the opposition of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and some Republicans in Congress.

"We're going to be taking the sanctions off. It's time to do that, OK? We don't want to sanction friends," Trump said during a joint press availability with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Trump booted Turkey from the group of allies eligible to buy F-35s in 2019 after Erdogan bought S-400 surface-to-air missiles from Russia. The US president formalized the restriction in 2020 with sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

Trump said he was "considering" selling the advanced warplane to Turkey, but did not outright commit to doing so following his arrival in the Turkish capital.

The decision had been expected, drawing pushback from Israel, with which Erdogan's government has had poor relations.

"I don't think they should be given F-35s or engines for their fighter jets," Netanyahu told "Fox & Friends" Monday, calling the Turkish government "a regime infected by the Muslim Brotherhood, an extreme movement that ... chants 'Death to America.' "

Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY) said last month that F-35 sales to Turkey would raise "significant national security concerns."

"While Turkey is a NATO ally, President Erdogan has repeatedly taken actions that call into question the country's reliability as a strategic partner," Lawler said.

Trump, however, lavished praise on Erdogan as a "great leader" with whom he has "good chemistry."

Steven Nelson

Mother-loaded retreat

MARY IN THE QURAN
"O Mary, indeed Allah has purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds."
From July 9th to the 14th 2026
CORSICA FRANCE

NYC first lady hails Mary of Palestine

By ISABEL VINCENT

New York City's controversial first lady, Rama Duwaji, is co-hosting a pro-Palestinian all-female spiritual retreat where they will honor Jesus' mother, Mary, described as a "Palestinian woman giving birth under occupation."

Duwaji, 29, will travel to the sold-out "spiritual" retreat on the French island of Corsica this week, where participants — most of them Muslim women — will pray at a 15th century monastery for "our sisters in Palestine," according to a report.

The event, starting Thursday, is being organized by Women Sanctuary, a Muslim- and women-focused travel group run by Parisian designer Rym Nur.

In Corsica, attendees will "honor the legacy of Mary, the most honored woman in the Quran," according to the group's website. The retreat — priced from $3,100 to $5,260 — features lectures, daily prayers and farm-to-table dining.

"At every prayer, lecture and meal, there was mention of our sisters in Palestine," said a 2025 Vogue Arabia article about last year's Corsican retreat, which was also held in celebration of the Virgin Mary, who is honored in both Christianity and Islam.

'Complicated' history

"At the heart of this retreat is the luminous legacy of Mary, the most honored woman in the Qur'an, chosen, purified, and elevated above all women of the worlds," says the Women Sanctuary website. "She is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an — mentioned 34 times. Her story is not only one of divine motherhood, but of unwavering faith, sacred retreat, and total devotion to Allah."

"One guest . . . had just returned from Gaza's Nasser Hospital, where she volunteered for a month to help deliver babies under bombardment. She spoke of mothers laboring through terror and of tender life arriving in the shadow of death," wrote one attendee in the article for Vogue Arabia.

"It is not lost on us that Mary, too, was a Palestinian woman giving birth under occupation. In the Qur'an, she cries out in anguish, 'I wish I had died before this and had been long-forgotten,'" she added.

Scholars are wary of the politicization of the divine memory of Mary and placing her in a modern context.

"It's historically complicated," said Rachel Fulton Brown, a history professor at the University of Chicago and the author of "Mary and the Art of Prayer: The Hours of the Virgin in Medieval Christian Life and Thought."

"Trying to pretend that now is 2,000 years ago is not helpful to anyone," she continued. "It's not going to help us deal with the situation in Gaza."

Last year, Nur gave each participant a handmade keffiyeh, created by New York-based Palestinian designer Sarah Musa, who sends 100% of the profits from select styles of keffiyehs to the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, according to her website.

The two aid groups have been criticized for alleged ties to Hamas in Gaza.

The California-based Palestine Children's Relief Fund said it "complies with US laws checking all individuals and agencies against terrorist organization lists published by the US Treasury Department." to prevent donations reaching Hamas. Palestine Red Crescent Society says it is an independent body that complies with international protocol and has denied it has any links to Hamas.

'Island of the just'

The retreat is taking place on an island that, unlike most of France, has not wavered in its support for Israel, especially after the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack that left 1,200 Israelis dead, the leader of the island's nationalist movement told The Post on Monday.

"Corsica is the only French department during the [Nazi] occupation during the Second World War that did not deport any Jews, which is why it was named 'the island of the just,'" said Nicolas Battini, director of Mossa Palatina, a conservative political movement he founded in 2024.

Last weekend, Syrian-American artist and illustrator Duwaji ditched America's 250th anniversary celebrations to jet off to another Women Sanctuary's retreat on the Spanish island of Mallorca, where she was the "artist-in-residence" at a sold-out "Plants Of The Quran" workshop.

James Keivom

BOOKING IT: New York City First Lady Rama Duwaji is co-hosting a "Mary in the Quran" spiritual retreat in Corsica, France, after jetting off last weekend (below) to Mallorca, Spain, for a "Plants of the Quran" workshop.

Criminal justice $$ rap

The John Jay College of Criminal Justice employed a "criminal" bookkeeper who stole more than $700,000 meant for students, according to a bombshell indictment Tuesday.

Cadelie Neat, 60, sent herself more than 260 fraudulent checks purportedly made out to current and former enrollees in a stipend program, plus some fictional "students" she invented, court papers claim.

The shifty accountant helped herself to $710,000 in funds earmarked for members of the "APPLE Corps" program for people exploring careers in law enforcement, authorities said.

The allegedly crooked bookkeeper pleaded not guilty Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities announced Neat's arrest alongside a case in which Andrea Williams, 47, a former accountant at the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School, was charged with stealing more than $288,000.

Williams and Cheryl Carr, 73, incorporated a fictional school with a nearly identical name to the Harlem school before illegally diverting checks meant for the school into their own pockets, court papers claim.

Lawyers for the three did not respond to requests for comment. *Ben Kochman*

Mugger rips off 89-yr.-old

A cruel mugger tossed an 89-year-old man to the ground and robbed him of more than $1,000 — and even his $10 necklace — outside a Queens bank last week, cops and sources said.

The victim had stepped out of the Capitol One bank on Jamaica Avenue near Sutphin Boulevard around 12:30 p.m. Thursday when the much-younger menace hurled him to the pavement, kicked him and grabbed $1,300 that he was carrying along with the $10 necklace, according to cops and law-enforcement sources.

The 18- to 25-year-old attacker remained at large Tuesday. *Amanda Woods*

DONNA SIAFAKAS
Beloved bakery owner.

Dame of donuts dead, 69

The matriarch of a beloved family-owned Brooklyn pastry shop died last week after spending over three decades slinging donuts and serving locals, according to her next of kin.

Donna Siafakas, owner and operator of Peter Pan Donut & Pastry Shop in Greenpoint, died on June 30 at the age of 69, according to an obituary.

Siafakas's death was announced with a handmade sign on the legendary donut shop's front door saying, "We will be closed Wed, July 8th to honor our beloved Donna."

Siafakas ran the business alongside her husband, Christos, since 1993.

Later, sons Demetri and Spyros joined them.

The neighborhood bakery, around since the 1950s, was best known for its donuts and for a cameo scene in the Marvel blockbuster "Spider-Man: No Way Home" starring Zendaya and Tom Holland. *David DeTurris*

Bx. liquor store death

A 46-year-old man was gunned down in front of a liquor store in The Bronx on Monday night, according to authorities.

The victim was found with a gunshot wound to the head near the intersection of Archer Street and White Plains Road in Parkchester just before 8:15 p.m., according to the NYPD.

Emergency responders rushed the unidentified man to NYC Health+Hospitals/Jacobi, where he was pronounced dead, cops said. *Zoe Hussain*

Campus moves, roof climb caught on tape

YouTube/East Idaho News

SEEN: New footage, shown at a hearing attended by Erika Kirk (right), Charlie Kirk's widow, shows Tyler Robinson (near left), climbing to the roof (far left) from where Kirk was shot.

Zuma / SplashNews.com

SHADOWING KIRK 'KILLER'

By JARED DOWNING

Never-before-seen surveillance footage provides the clearest picture yet of what an investigator claims Tyler Robinson did just hours before he allegedly killed Charlie Kirk.

Videos played in court show Robinson, now 23, at the Utah Valley University campus on Sept. 10, 2025, before leaving, returning and finally climbing to a rooftop, former Utah state investigator David Hull testified Tuesday.

Prosecutors also presented an FBI report that determined DNA samples likely matching Robinson and his lover Lance Twiggs were found on a towel wrapped under the gun near the campus as well as a screwdriver discovered on the roof from where Robinson allegedly fired at Kirk.

Hull claimed Robinson — who lived three hours away — roamed campus, made contact with Turning Point USA representatives and even stopped for lunch at a Chick-fil-A before returning in different clothes and walking with a noticeable limp.

Limp due to gun

In one clip, Hull claims: "This is Mr. Robinson returning to the campus on foot . . . You can see he is wearing the same clothing as in the previous video . . . It's a maroon-colored T-shirt . . . and then Converse shoes."

When asked why he believes another clip — of an individual in different clothes — shows Robinson returning to campus, Hull said: "The shoes are the same. And the images that we have are, from my viewing and seeing Mr. Robinson on the video, it's the same person . . . He is wearing different clothing, and he also is walking with a gait or a limp in this video."

Investigators believe that the limp was due to allegedly having a rifle hidden under his clothes, sources told ABC News.

District Judge Tony Graf rejected defense objections to the videos being shown in court.

The videos and testimony came on the second day of the bombshell preliminary hearing to determine if Robinson will stand trial for the alleged assassination of the Turning Point USA founder — and with no plea deal announced.

Prosecutors are set to show scores of items of evidence against him, including a video interview of Robinson's trans lover Twiggs — to whom he allegedly confessed to the crime in text messages after the fact.

Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, quietly entered the courthouse through a private entrance on Tuesday, the Daily Mail reported.

Monday was Erika's first time coming face to face with the man accused of killing her husband.

She rushed out of the courtroom Monday before videos of her husband's death were shown.

In a statement ahead of the hearing, Charlie Kirk's parents and siblings and his widow said:

"We remain deeply grateful for the support, prayers, and kindness we have received. This outpouring has sustained us during the darkest days of our lives."

SHOCKED: Judge Tony Graf winced at footage of Charlie Kirk's death.

Judge flinches at slay video

The judge overseeing the Charlie Kirk assassination case winced when the court was shown footage of the moment the Turning Point USA founder was shot through the neck.

Judge Tony Graf flinched and moved his seat back while watching his monitor on the bench during Monday's hearing in Utah, at which Erika Kirk faced her husband's alleged killer, Tyler Robinson, for the first time. He then gathered himself and calmly stated, "And that concludes state's Exhibit 8," The New York Times reported.

Robinson, 23, is accused of shooting Kirk, 31, while he was speaking to thousands at Utah Valley University in September.

Erika Kirk, who attended the hearing with her late husband's parents, made a swift exit from courtroom right before prosecutors played three videos showing the killing.

Robinson appeared to smile at various times during the hearing while talking to one of his lawyers.

During this week's hearings in Provo, Graf will determine if there is enough evidence for Robinson to face criminal trial.

Patrick Reilly

GOPers eye how union dues spent

By CARL CAMPANILE

House Republicans have launched a probe into allegations that American Federation of Teachers dues were spent to help the union's president, Randi Weingarten, write and promote a book.

The investigation by the House Committee on Education and Workforce comes after The Post's exclusive report in May that Weingarten tapped into hundreds of thousands in union resources to help pen her tome, "Why Fascists Fear Teachers: Public Education and the Future of Democracy."

"The prospect that rank-and-file educators' dues may have financed a project that generated private financial gain raises serious questions about transparency, accountability, and fiduciary responsibility within one of the nation's largest labor organizations," the head of the committee said in a Tuesday letter to Weingarten.

The letter, from Chairman Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) and Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, said The Post's report, which was based on a Freedom Foundation analysis of the union's federal labor disclosures, raised serious questions.

TOME TIMELINE: A congressional committee is asking American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten to turn over by July 21 documents on union expenditures related to the drafting, publishing and promoting of her book.

Robert Miller

Resources used

They questioned "whether union funds, personnel, contractors, and other resources were utilized to support the development and promotion of your book while you [Weingarten] simultaneously retained a portion of the resulting royalties and proceeds."

"According to these reports, AFT expended substantial funds on consultants, legal services, publication-related expenses, fact-checking services, photography, and other activities connected to the book," Walberg and Allen said.

A team that assisted Weingarten with the book raked in more than $1.4 million from the AFT's coffers, The Post previously reported based on the foundation analysis.

Weingarten publicly stated that some of the proceeds from the book would go back to the AFT, its Disaster Relief Fund and its Educational Foundation.

Union records revealed that two "royalty payments" totaling $125,000 were made to a Weingarten-controlled entity, called Teachers Want What Kids Need LLC, which the foundation analysis pointed out was not a tax-exempt charity but "an opaque corporate entity."

The lawmakers noted that Weingarten said the book project was undertaken in partnership with the AFT and claimed she did nothing wrong but, "the available information warrants further review."

The committee requested Weingarten turn over by July 21 scores of documents, including all AFT expenditures related to the drafting, publishing, promoting and tour activities associated with the book; all agreements between AFT and outside parties and documents of all work performed by AFT employees on the book.

Weingarten had no immediate comment, but she previously panned The Post's report as based on a "fishing expedition" by a right-wing group. However, she admitted that the proceeds of the book were "shared equally" between her and the union.

Weingarten, who is paid $469,442 by the AFT and who previously headed the union's New York City affiliate, the United Federation of Teachers, claimed she never hid that she would split the proceeds.

WEINGARTEN BOOK PROBED

'Illegal immig' killed by ICE

An ICE agent gunned down an illegal immigrant after the man attempted to run agents over during a traffic stop in Texas last Thursday, the agency said.

Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national, was shot and killed by officers in Houston after he had been caught up in an operation the agency had been conducting in the city, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a press release.

Salgado had tried to flee after agents told him to pull his vehicle over, ICE said.

He rammed an ICE vehicle, ignoring commands from officers to pull over, and tried to use his vehicle to run over an ICE agent, the agency alleged.

An ICE agent then shot at the motorist, fatally wounding him. He was rushed to the hospital, where he later died, authorities said.

Salgado, who officials said is an illegal immigrant, had been in the area looking to hire workers, his son Ronaldo Salgado told Telemundo Houston.

The Houston shooting is the most recent in a series of deadly ICE incidents.

ICE agents shot and killed a man in Chicago after he rammed into officers in September 2025, dragging one underneath his car.

Anti-ICE activist Renee Nicole Good was shot and killed by immigration agents in Minneapolis after the agency claimed she had attempted to run over one of their own. *David DeTurris*

Gun-toting teen charged in NYPD friendly fire shoot

The gun-toting teen who rushed an unmarked NYPD car, leaving a veteran detective just days from retirement shot by friendly fire, was identified and hit with attempted murder and a string of other charges.

Camani Barletto, 18, was slapped Monday night with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of weapons possession, two counts of reckless endangerment, and criminal mischief for the chaotic confrontation that got Detective Robert Karroll shot in Crown Heights Sunday morning, police said.

Karroll — a married father of three just 10 days shy of retirement — was shot in the back around 4:15 a.m. when the crazed teen, of West Orange, NJ, allegedly stormed up to an unmarked police car packed with four uniformed cops while brandishing a gun, authorities said.

When the suspect flashed his gun in front of the officers, three of the four cops fired — missing the suspect but apparently hitting Karroll, sources said, citing a preliminary probe.

Surveillance footage captured the frenzied armed teen chatting with four people outside a Nostrand Avenue deli around 4:05 a.m. — just 10 minutes before Karroll was blasted. Barletto allegedly then whipped out a 9mm handgun and wildly pointed it at one of the men, ducked inside the store, came back out and fired at a passing Uber that sources said appeared to be his target.

Neither the Uber driver nor their passenger was hit, sources said.

The teen then crept behind the cops' unmarked SUV with his gun visible, skulked along the driver's side, and stepped in front of the vehicle, brandishing the weapon, sources said.

Barletto fled but was nabbed several blocks away, officials said. *Joe Marino and Anna Young*

Power, politics, and the stories behind the headlines.

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Daddy Diddy sews success

SOMETIMES being a nepo baby isn't *just* an advantage. Page Six has learned that **Sean** "Diddy" **Combs**' 19-year-old twin daughters are launching a fashion brand — while their leg up in life is on lockdown.

But it seems **Jessie** and **D'Lila Combs** believe they can pull off the delicate feat of piggybacking on his profile while also separating themselves from his muddied image.

"His press is his press and our press is our press," D'Lila told us. "Our journey is separate. We try to stay positive, and we're focused on what we're building."

Meanwhile, they say Sean John founder Diddy — who's serving a 50-month sentence at a federal prison in Fort Dix, NJ, for two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution — has been coaching them on fashion biz from behind bars.

The pair tell us the idea for their streetwear-casual line, 12Twinty1, predates their dad's 2024 arrest, and they've been focusing on it since they graduated from high school last year.

"We've been planning this for about three years now," Jessie said. "Ever since we were little, we've loved fashion."

"Our dad has always had incredible style, and our mom [the late model Kim Porter] did too, so they've both inspired us," D'Lila said, adding that Combs has also been dispensing advice thanks to his experience building his own fashion brand. "He's very proud of us," Jessie said. "We've gone to him for guidance many times, and he's been incredibly helpful."

Their mother died in 2018 at 47 from natural causes due to a severe lung infection. Diddy has seven kids, three with Porter: the twins and **Christian** "King" **Combs**, 28.

The first drop from the 12Twinty1 line, dubbed "777," is another family affair. The number refers to the twins being born seven minutes apart, while seven was also the favorite number of Porter and their father. The collection ranges from $34 tank tops to $119 hoodies.

Page Six®

Ian Mohr
imohr@nypost.com

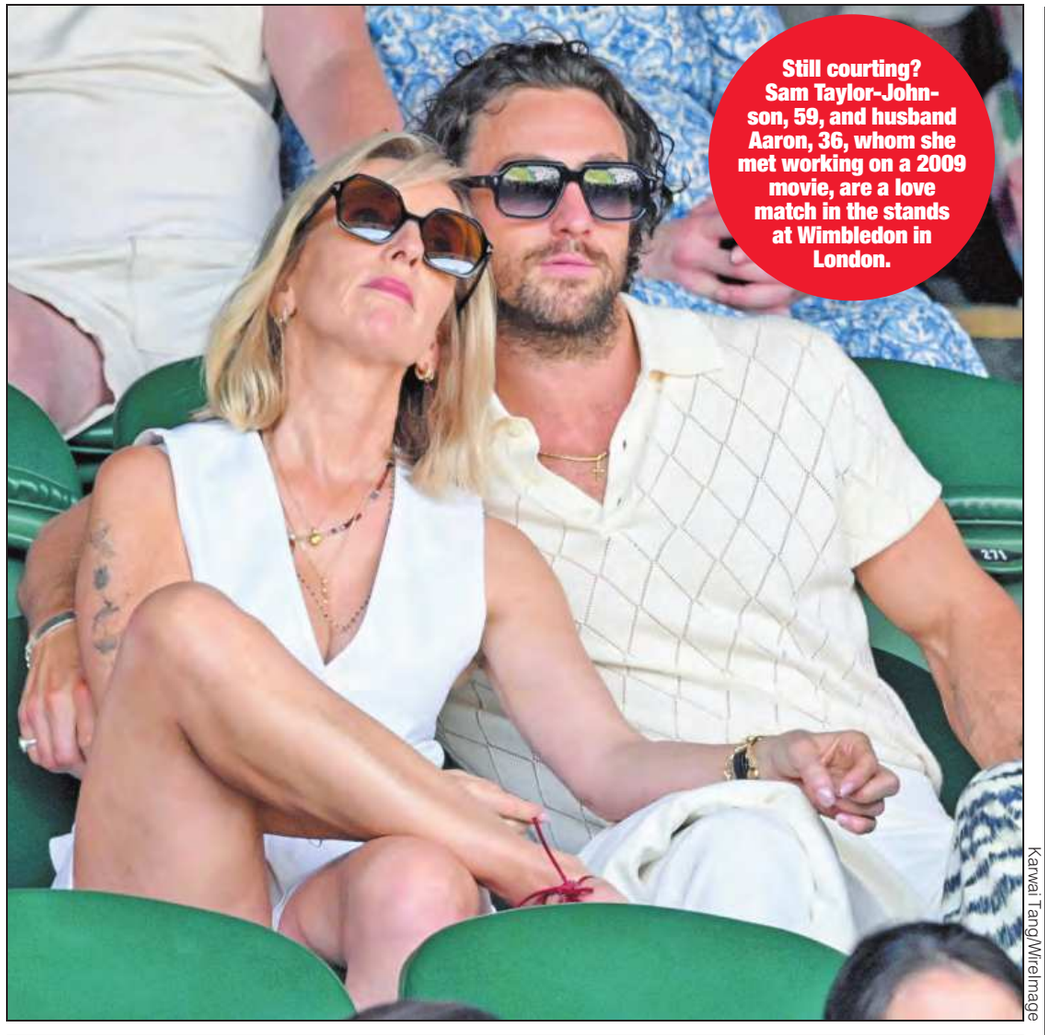
Oli Coleman
ocoleman@nypost.com
Mara Siegler
msiegler@nypost.com
Carlos Greer
cgreer@nypost.com

Chef goes with Flo

JEAN-GEORGES Vongerichten has staked his claim at his namesake property in Miami. The French chef bought a condo, listed at $3.5 million, at Jean-Georges Miami Tropic Residences in the Miami Design District. "We've envisioned Miami Tropic as an extension of my hospitality-driven restaurant portfolio — where food, design, wellness and community come together," he told Page Six. Polo star **Nacho Figueras** and his son **Hilario**, as well as Formula 1 driver **Pierre Gasly**, have also bought pads in the building, with the latter forking out $4.9 million for his four-bedroom, four-bathroom unit, we hear. Vongerichten worked with development firm Terra on the project.

One hoop or two?

HE sank the 3! Page Six spies spotted NBA legend **Steph Curry** (above) enjoying his off-season with a visit to dessert mecca Serendipity 3 with his 13-year-old daughter, **Riley**. We're told the twosome hit the original Upper East Side location (there's one in Times Square now too) and had the famed Frrrozen Hot Chocolate and some other treats. The four-time NBA champ with the Golden State Warriors and wife **Ayesha Curry** are parents to Riley and three younger kids. Serendipity 3 has been an institution since it opened in 1954.



Still courting? Sam Taylor-Johnson, 59, and husband Aaron, 36, whom she met working on a 2009 movie, are a love match in the stands at Wimbledon in London.

Karwai Tang/WireImage

'Bad Blood' thicker than chosen family

BRAD Pitt and **Avril Lavigne** were there. But what about **Taylor Swift**'s actual friends and loved ones? It turned out that none of the parents of the singer's five godchildren — much less the tykes themselves — were at her wedding to **Travis Kelce**. Swift is godmother to troubled actress **Jaime King**'s 10-year-old son as well as all four of **Blake Lively** and **Ryan Reynolds**' kids, ages 3 to 11. But none were holding down duties on the big day. "She just had [brother-in-law] **Jason Kelce**'s [daughters] as flower girls," a source told Page Six. Lively and Swift's relationship was battered by the actress' lawsuit against director **Justin Baldoni**, in which texts between the women were made public. And it seems King just didn't make the cut. "Taylor gets really close to the people in front of her fast. She and Jaime just happened to be friends when Jaime was pregnant and that's why Jaime asked [Swift to be godmother] — but they didn't have a super long history together," one music insider told The Post's **Jeanette Settembre**. Reps for King and Lively did not respond to requests for comment. Lively and Reynolds, meanwhile, spent the day of Swift's rehearsal dinner at their kid's horse show in Lake Placid, NY.

tips @Page Six .com

His barber Vinny

NOW go home and get your shears! **Frankie Valli** used to get his hair cut by **Joe Pesci**, according to the Four Seasons singer's brother. "He cut my hair. That's right. Joe used to work down on Franklin Street . . . It was called Branch Barbers. And I used to go there for haircuts," **Bobby Valli** told **Joe Sibilia** on his "Nostalgia Tonight" podcast. Both future stars were from the Newark area. "Joey was a great guy," Bobby said. "And he was a child star, and he had a group. He had a group with Frankie Vincent." Vincent went on to star in many of the same gangster classics as Pesci, while Pesci got his big break in "Raging Bull" in 1980.

Staying 'Hitch'ed

JADA Pinkett Smith reportedly "moved back in" with **Will Smith** two years ago after separating in 2016. "They are happy and love each other and are, as ever, committed to supporting each other," a source told People. The couple spent the holiday weekend in Philly, where Will performed. Jada "was there with him as she always is," the source said. Reps for the couple didn't get back to us. In 2023, Jada (above) revealed she and Will had separated and were living apart, but were "doing some really heavy-duty work" on their marriage. She also said, "After all those years trying to figure out if I would leave Will's side," when he slapped **Chris Rock** onstage at the Oscars in 2022, she knew "I will never leave him."

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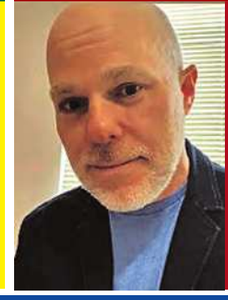

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MITCH BACK FROM 'DEAD'

Making calls from bed

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell has been making phone calls from his hospital bed to Republican allies to dispel internet rumors that he's "brain dead" after 911 dispatch calls revealed the 84-year-old was rushed "unconscious" from his DC home in an ambulance last month.

The longest-serving Senate majority leader of either party reached out to his successor, John Thune (R-SD), and Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), as well as ex-adviser and current CNN contributor Scott Jennings, following X posts from right-wing firebrand Laura Loomer about an alleged "cover-up" of McConnell's failing health.

"Sen. McConnell appreciates the outpouring of support he's receiving while he continues his recovery in the hospital," a spokesperson for his office said in a statement. "The Senator . . . working closely with his staff on Kentucky and Senate matters while the Senate is out of session."

McConnell's Senate colleagues issued statements that the retiring Republican was alert and chatty.

MITCH McCONNELL
Making calls to GOPers.

"Leader Thune spoke with Sen. McConnell yesterday by phone," a Thune spokesperson said. "They had a lengthy and substantive conversation that covered a variety of topics, including national security."

'Eager' to return

"Sen. Barrasso and Sen. McConnell had a lengthy conversation early this afternoon," a spokesperson for the Republican conference chairman also said. "Sen. McConnell was fully engaged and is eager to get back to the Senate."

Jennings added in an X Post that on Tuesday, he also "talked for just shy of 20 minutes" with his former boss.

Independent journalist Desireé Townsend was the first to uncover EMS audio of McConnell being taken to George Washington University Hospital on June 14, after he was found "unconscious" shortly before 9 a.m.

Dispatchers on the audio discussed that there was "CPR in progress" for a "cardiac arrest" at McConnell's residence and referenced medical personnel in an Advanced Life Support ambulance.

Loomer also prompted frenzied speculation after posting Monday on X: "High level source close to the White House tells me 'Mitch McConnell is officially brain dead.' "

On Tuesday, Loomer suggested that McConnell's staff was keeping a lid on official communications "because the Senators want to f--k Trump and not pass the Save America Act," the president's signature voter ID bill.

"Mitch McConnell is brain dead and hooked up to machines!!! He is 84 years old and was found unconscious and needed to be resuscitated," she added.

jchristenson@nypost.com

Gator bites off kid's hand

A Pennsylvania schoolboy devoted to baseball lost his hand in a savage alligator attack while on a fishing vacation — despite his dad's best efforts to free him moments before the gator performed a terrifying roll.

Brodie Terry, 11, was attacked during the trip at Nelson's Fish Camp in Marion County, Fla., on June 27, just about as he was to release a fish back into the water, WKMG-TV reported.

The gator, which measured more than 8 feet, clamped its teeth into Brodie's hand, sparking a frantic response.

"Brodie's father jumped into the water on top of it and tried to pry his mouth open," relative Andrew Raines told WKMG.

"The gator rolled, and that's what ultimately severed Brodie's hand."

Gators perform the maneuver, known as a roll, to drown and tear apart their prey.

Doctors desperately tried to save Brodie's hand before it was later amputated.

He was released from the hospital Friday and is recovering back in his native Pennsylvania.

The alligator involved in the attack was later killed by Florida wildlife officials.

Chris Bradford

Cindy Adams
is off taking free kicks at MetLife Stadium.

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A RENT FREEZE

Ryan King

Few bullish on Zo housing plan

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

It's a tale of two rental classes.

On the one hand, you have the 1 million-plus New Yorkers in rent-stabilized apartments, who thanks to Mayor Mamdani's highly controversial rent freeze, will pay the same low rates for the next two years.

On the other, there are 1 million apartments that remain at market rates — with rents rising to their highest levels in history (the average monthly rent is a whopping $4,180) and squeeze hard-working New Yorkers, whose salary increases haven't kept up with the staggering rent increases.

Median gross rent in New York City rose about 13.5% after adjusting for inflation over the decade ending in 2024, according to the NYU Furman Center, compared to the 3.2% average inflation rate in the period.

Mamdani's policy, ironically for a democratic socialist, has created the kind of glaring two-tier social system he and his cronies rail against.

But the winners and losers in Mamdani's New York aren't necessarily who you think.

Yes, there are the stabilized tenants who are delighted to have more money in their pockets. But there are just as many with frozen rents who are panicking about the decline of their buildings.

And then, of course, there are the landlords themselves who are facing bankruptcy and the market-rate tenants who are being squeezed with rent rises they can barely afford.

Even President Trump weighed in: "What the mayor doesn't say is that these buildings will soon turn into ghettos and slums, and that everybody will continue leaving New York."

Here, The Post spoke to tenants and landlords on both sides of the rent-freeze divide — and the losers are stacked high.

LOSERS

THE MARKET-RATE RENTER ALREADY HIT

An Upper West Side tenant, who spoke to The Post on condition of anonymity, suspects he has already been penalized because of the freeze.

The p.r. consultant lives with two roommates in about 1,000 square feet for a total monthly rent of $5,500.

The landlord recently informed them that the trio's rent is going to increase by 6%, far more than the 2.9% increase they got hit with last year.

"I think my rent might have already been impacted," said the consultant whose building has a doorman, laundry facilities and a gym along with rent-stabilized units.

He suspects that the landlord is balancing the books — upping rents on market rate apartments to offset losses from the frozen stabilized rents.

"They came to me with that number after [Mamdani] said he was going to freeze rents and he got elected."

The p.r. guy believed the system was already rigged.

"I think that the rent-stabilized tenants are effectively being subsidized by the free-market tenants," the p.r. pro said. The rent freeze compounds it. "It feels a little bit like a slap in the face," he added.

A RENT-STABILIZED TENANT SAYS FREEZE IS BAD FOR ALL

Lara Kossover, who lives in a two-bedroom, one-bathroom rent-stabilized apartment in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with her husband and two teenage boys at a rent of $3,300 a month, is worried about maintenance suffering in buildings with the frozen units.

"My concern is the landlord won't be able to afford to fix anything in the building," said Kossover, a real estate salesperson with Keller Williams NYC — especially as expenses rise for property operators.

The family has resided in their apartment for more than 15 years.

"Right now it seems like a good thing, but in the long run it's not going to be a good thing," said Kossover.

In fact, maintenance is already an issue for her.

Kossover's bathroom door is broken and the kitchen linoleum floor is peeling.

Already, "I feel like I'm calling my landlord at least three or four times a year for issues that I feel are emergencies," Kossover said.

AS PRICES STAY FLAT, QUALITY GOES DOWN

Alexandra "Sasha" Avchukov has a similar take. Bond real estate agent Nancy Elton landed Avchukov a rent-stabilized one-bedroom apartment on the Upper East Side for $2,660 a month.

Avchukov anticipates building quality "going down" because the landlords can't increase the rents to help with building upkeep.

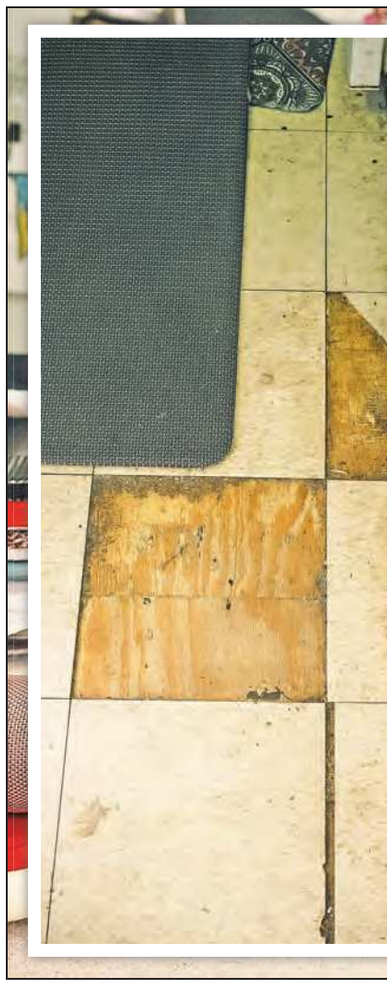
"I feel like it's already an issue," she said. "I live in a pretty old building and there are constantly maintenance issues."

The hallway has "rotten smells randomly, like trash and stuff," Avchukov said, adding, "It's probably coming from a tenant's apartment, but it's just not clean inside the building."

"A lot of that is to be expected," Avchukov said. "And I accept that — living in an old building, but also it would be nice for them to have a cleaner come through the staircase at least once a month or something."

A bathroom ceiling leak took two months for the building to repair.

"I understand why it seems appealing on the surface," Avchukov said of the freeze. "But when you consider more factors, I think it does more harm than good."



FINANCIAL PRESSURES BOIL OVER

Landlord Violet Zharku owns three fully rent-stabilized properties in Queens, each with about 16 units. She was already trying to offload the properties due to financial pressures, but now is in an even more dire position.

At her Woodside building, for example, the mortgage and operations there cost $2,400 monthly per unit. Rents there are all be-

WINNERS

'I THINK IT'S OVERDUE'

It was a happy day for a Brooklyn man when he won a cheap apartment under New York City's affordable-housing lottery in 2016.

After sharing apartments with roommates for years, he finally got to live by

REALITY CHECK

Stefano Giovannini for NY Post

Olga Ginzburg

HOME GROAN: Lara Kossover (left) lives in a rent-stabilized apartment in Park Slope and is worried about maintenance suffering, like her kitchen's peeling linoleum floor. Meanwhile, Kelly Kreth (right) fears her market-rate rent on the Upper East Side will go up as a result of the rent freeze.

low $2,000 a month.

"So we are losing $172,000 annually," she said.

Zharku said when she and her family acquired the properties a few years ago, they were willing to take the financial hit in the beginning to fix them up and add value and "eventually make the money back. But now we don't have that," she said.

"We are defeated and we just we have to find a way not to lose any further money than we have already lost within these past three years," she added.

Bankruptcy would be a last resort for her.

"Now what we're doing is trying to figure out — [whether to] sell it now and lose as little as possible, salvage as much as we can and not go into bankruptcy," she said.

AN INEVITABLE DECLINE

One stabilized-property owner, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, talked about how conditions would inevitably decline.

"It's obviously extremely bad," as landlords like him won't "invest in services," he said, adding, "At a certain point [stabilized landlords] won't be able to provide basic services."

The landlord said not only will general maintenance decline, building services will be cut and market-rate rents will be inflated. It also discourages the supply of new housing.

"It seems to me like it would be unsustainable to maintain 0% indefinitely because of those buildings where the landlords will just lose the building to [the] bank," the landlord said. "And it's just not good for those people who live there. People would be better off having a 2% rent increase, but having their living situation functional."

WILL MY GOOD DEAL LAST?

Communications expert Kelly Kreth is concerned about getting an unfair rent hike for her market-rate one-bedroom unit on the Upper East Side.

"I am so worried that now that landlords can't raise rent-stabilized units for two years, that the only way they can compensate is raising rents even more on market-rate units," said Kreth, who pays $2,900 per month for her home.

She is critical of Mamdani and says that, as he froze rents, he "should have also, simultaneously worked with the state to strengthen Good Cause Eviction, putting a smaller cap on market-rate raises. Right now it's essentially about 8.75% which is a huge raise to deal with potentially each year as a market-rate tenant. Market-rate rents need to be capped to something more reasonable like 5%."

Enacted in April 2024, the Good Cause Eviction Law gives eligible market-rate tenants the right to a lease renewal and a cap on annual rent increases.

himself in a one-bedroom apartment in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, for just $700 a month.

While low compared to market-rate apartments, in the last 10 years, his rent has climbed more than 45% to $1,020 a month, which he called "nuts," and noted that even with the increases, there was a year-long period where he "had to hound" the management company to fix the elevators.

The Brooklyn resident is happy about the rent freeze.

"I think it's overdue," the tenant said.

A CITY TO CALL HOME

Another rent-stabilized tenant praised the freeze.

"I'm really happy that this passed. It's very important that we preserve affordable housing," said Pia Isabella Palomino, a community organizer for an affordable housing-related nonprofit. Milton Coste of Keller Williams NYC found her a one-bedroom rent-stabilized apartment in Ridgewood, Queens, where she pays $1,380 a month. She noted the $0 rate won't apply to her as she just signed her lease. "I plan to stay there as long as I can," she said.

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Kat Steffer competition

Gov: Bruce an easier foe

By HALEY BROWN

Gov. Hochul threw shade at Republican rival Bruce Blakeman — boasting that almost-candidate Rep. Elise Stefanik "probably" would have been a tougher opponent.

The jab from Hochul prompted Blakeman, the Nassau County executive, to compare the incumbent governor to Disney villain Cruella de Vil from the movie "101 Dalmatians."

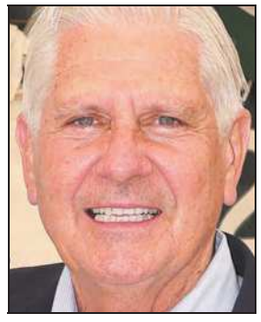
The Democratic governor made the comments in response to a question from Newsday's editorial board, which noted she was leading Blakeman comfortably in most polls.

"Probably," she said. "I mean, Bruce is, you know, Bruce."

Hochul said Stefanik "had the ability to raise a lot of money" because of her national following as a rising GOP star in the House of Representatives.

"It would have been a different race," said Hochul, who claims she would still win a contest against Stefanik, the upstate congresswoman who is retiring from the House at year's end.

Stefanik, who has $10.8 million in cash on hand in her congressional campaign account, had considered running for governor but opted not to.



DISSNEY: GOP gubernatorial candidate compared incumbent Gov. Hochul to Cruella de Vil.

"Our polling shows us beating her as well," Hochul said.

Blakeman's camp fired back Tuesday, saying, "Cruella de Vil would have been a tougher opponent than Kathy Hochul."

Stefanik declined to comment.

Hochul is seeking a second full, four-year term after taking office after former Gov. Andrew Cuomo resigned in 2021.

She won the office outright in 2022 by 6 points in the deeply blue state over then-Republican Rep. Lee Zeldin, who is now President Trump's chief of the Environmental Protection Administration.

She holds a large financial advantage over Blakeman. The next round of campaign filings is not due until July 15, but Hochul had about $20 million in her campaign account, according to her previous filing, compared to $1.4 million for Blakeman.

Blakeman is likely to obtain another $3 million to $4 million in public matching funds.

The state Democratic Party also had $14 million on hand in its accounts that could be tapped to help elect the Hochul-led statewide ticket.

The state Republican Party had less than $1 million on hand.

A pro-Blakeman super PAC called "Make It Cheaper" has formed to help level the playing field. Super PACs can accept unlimited donations.

Meanwhile, Hochul also told Newsday she's bullish on Democrats' holding onto two Long Island House seats and even winning red seats upstate. She is optimistic that Democratic Army veteran Cait Conley could beat GOP Rep. Mike Lawler in the Hudson Valley's 17th District.

155 animals so far at LI hoard

Over 150 neglected animals have been rescued from a Long Island hoarder's urine-soaked hell house since her teen daughter reported her last month — and authorities believe more cats may still be at large.

Following the arrest of Alena Horbatko, 155 animals — including two dogs — have been rescued from her Glen Cove home, the Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals told Patch last week.

When the 54-year-old hoarder was nabbed June 8, more than 130 cats and dogs were saved, including 43 felines in critical condition.

It is unknown exactly how many animals lived inside the house, but the SPCA believes some cats may still be on the loose.

"We have to continue to trap and come back until there is nothing to trap," said Nassau SPCA detective Brian Wasserman.

"We'll get them all."

Several Glen Cove city employees have offered to foster or adopt the cats and donated food, supplies and their time.

"It was impossible not to want to help," said Sue Tripp, one of the first city employees to adopt a kitten.

Ella Morrison

Shadowy Ukraine spy plot

DEADLY: Ukrainian assassin Anastasiia Berezovska (far left, left in disguise) was killed days after setting off a bomb in Monaco (top) meant for an oligarch that left Anna Nasobina (inset) maimed.

'FESS SLAY OF ASSASSIN

By CHRIS BRADFORD

A Ukrainian intelligence officer has admitted to executing the would-be assassin who tried to blow up a sanctioned oligarch in Monaco — after paying her off with crypto and cash, according to authorities in Kyiv.

The intelligence officer has said he went rogue and was not acting under orders of his spymasters.

Anastasiia Berezovska, 39, was found with gunshot wounds to her head at around 11 p.m. Monday in the Ukrainian capital — three days after an Interpol red notice was issued for her arrest.

The intel officer was one of two men arrested for the killing. A former law enforcement officer was also taken into custody. The intel officer "admitted to the murder of Berezovska, stating that he had committed the killing together with the other suspect," according to prosecutors.

Monaco bombing

"He also stated that he had not informed his superiors about his contacts with Berezovska, the transfers of money to her or any of his other actions and that he had acted on his own initiative."

Berezovska arrived back in Ukraine last Wednesday wanted on charges of attempted murder, placing an explosive device in a public place with criminal intent and criminal just two days after the attack in the principality.

She had been living outside Ukraine for more than a year.

The two men are suspected to have been "potentially involved" in the Monaco bombing after they "repeatedly transferred funds to Berezovska's cryptocurrency and bank accounts."

Cops searched the home of the law-enforcement officer where they found a torture chamber.

Grisly video, seen by the Financial Times, shows a green tarp on the floor inside the eerie looking basement.

Axes and hatchets were resting on the wall.

Monaco prosecutors initially believed a man carried out the plot against Vadym Yermolaiev — an attack that resulted in the woman with him, Anna Nasobina, 46, losing her legs.

That was because they reviewed surveillance footage of a person, sporting a bucket hat, fleeing the scene.

Oligarch target

Berezovska casually left a parcel in front of a building and waited for her victims to arrive — before detonating the bomb with a remote control.

Berezovska used a car she rented in Germany to leave the area. She fled to the French-Italian border before making her way to Switzerland, according to the Italian news agency ANSA.

The agency reported she made it back to her homeland — but it's not clear how she reached Ukraine.

Yermolaiev is a multimillionaire living in Monaco who had sanctions slapped on him by Kyiv beginning in December 2023 — reportedly stemming from his alcohol-business activity in Russian-occupied Crimea, France24 reported.

He was among the wealthiest tycoons in Ukraine, who led in the fields of commercial real estate, manufacturing and agriculture.

He told Forbes Ukraine that he renounced his Ukrainian citizenship and became a citizen of Cyprus in 2017.

Yermolaiev's eldest son, Artur, was arrested in Cyprus last year and accused of organizing large-scale fraudulent call centers targeting Europeans, according to the Pravda newspaper. *With Post Wires*

Mom sues LI officials for girl's 'abuse' death

The mother of a 7-year-old girl who died after a year of "systemic" abuse is suing Suffolk County and school officials for placing the her in a house of horrors.

Portia Duncan claims in county court papers that Jor'Dynn Duncan's fate was sealed when the county turned her over to Emily Kelly, the fiancée of Jor'Dynn's imprisoned father, Derrick Dixon, after which she allegedly suffered abuse that finally took he life in Dec. 29, 2025.

Duncan is seeking $250 million in damages.

"Today is the first step toward getting justice for Jor'Dynn," Derek Sells, Duncan's attorney, told The Post on Tuesday.

In December 2024, Jor'Dynn was placed in the Bayport home shared by Kelly, her mother, Barbara Renner, 75, and her daughter, Elyssa Seymore, 24. All three women have been charged in the girl's death.

Jor'Dynn was placed in Kelly's custody at the request of Dixon, who is serving a four-year state prison sentence for attempted burglary. Despite Duncan's objections, Kelly was given full custody of the girl in April 2025.

According to county prosecutors, the girl endured abuse, including "sharp force injuries," repeated beatings and restraint that forced the battered second-grader to miss 40 school days at the Bayport-Blue Point School District.

Duncan said the school district failed to report "outwardly obvious physical signs of abuse."

County officials did not respond to a request for comment, and the school district declined to comment. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

Invest adviser ripped off $3.5M from client

By JAMES FRANEY

A rogue ex-Citi money man could face up to 25 years in prison after he admitted to looting $3.5 million from a trusting client's life savings, according to court filings reviewed by The Post.

Disgraced investment adviser Sung Moo "Sam" Cho, 44, pleaded guilty on June 15 to wire and investment fraud in Brooklyn federal court for stealing the funds from a wealthy Franklin Lakes, NJ, resident to fund his lavish lifestyle, the filings show.

He preyed on his unnamed victim between 2023 and 2025, spending the embezzled money on fancy vacations and expensive jewelry, as well as paying off student loans and credit card debt, according to documents posted on the Eastern District of New York court docket.

A now-deleted biography on Citi's wealth management website states that he joined the Jane Fraser-led firm in October 2025 from Ameriprise Financial after completing stints at Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase and Merrill Lynch.

MAN OF STEAL: Sung Moo "Sam" Cho (right) pleaded guilty to wire and investment fraud in June after spending the $3.5 million he embezzled on fancy vacations and expensive jewelry. The ex-Citi adviser, 44, also paid off student loans and credit card debt.

Getty Images/Facebook

Forged signatures

The criminal activity took place at both Ameriprise and Citi, which fired him in April when they uncovered his fraudulent schemes.

Cho bypassed internal compliance at both firms by forging the client's signature on authorization forms. He triggered massive, unauthorized wire transfers out of the client's account, court documents state.

To keep his own name off the paper trail, Cho wired the millions straight to a company bank account in Queens, according to the filings. A co-conspirator owned the unidentified business and collected a kickback fee to wash the money and wire it back into accounts Cho directly controlled, the documents read.

"In exchange for facilitating the scheme, Cho paid the co-conspirator a fee," prosecutors said. "Through this scheme, Cho embezzled approximately $3.5 million."

The University at Buffalo alum, a self-described "faithful and hopeful Jets, Mets and Nets fan," told the client the funds went into a legitimate investment and fabricated completely fake account statements that hid the missing millions.

He then went into internal systems and scrubbed the client's personal identification information to block any automated system alerts.

The scheme unraveled when a customer complaint reached regulators, with Citigroup moving to boot Cho out of the bank and filing a damning disclosure that exposed his rogue record-keeping.

The bank terminated him over "allegations involving the removal of customer personally identifiable information from firm systems to create non-firm generated statement that was provided to a client as well as refusal to cooperate with an internal investigation," according to a regulatory filing.

Wall Street watchdog FINRA hit him with a lifetime ban on June 25 after he stonewalled their investigation, as well.

It dropped the hammer on Cho after he refused to surrender a single record.

No sentencing date has been set, but Cho is free on bail after posting a $200,000 bond and surrendering his passport.

Gran's stirring rebuke of Mam

A grieving grandma made an emotional plea for justice Tuesday, interrupting Mayor Mamdani as he spoke of the senseless Fourth of July mass shooting in Brooklyn that left eight of her kin wounded.

A tearful Carlene Pearsall, who was herself wounded in the Coney Island attack, cut the mayor off at a vigil to honor the victims when he spoke of "the families" who were affected.

"Everybody that was shot was my blood family," Pearsall snapped. "Everybody. It's one family. It's not multiple families. It's one family. It's one entire family. This doesn't make any sense.

"They shot our babies," she said. "This is senseless. Our kids did not deserve that. My son is laying in a hospital bed saying, 'Mom, what did I do to deserve this?' Son, you did absolutely nothing. It doesn't make any sense," Pearsall sobbed. "It's babies. It has to stop. It has to stop."

Mamdani attended the anti-gun violence event near the scene of the July 4 shooting, during which a masked gunman opened fire on the family as they barbecued and enjoyed fireworks.

The barrage of bullets left Pearsall's 6-year-old grandson with a stomach wound, and three other youngsters — her 14-year-old son and 7- and 12-year-old nephews — with gunshot wounds to the legs. Also shot were her nieces, 21 and 25, and her 33- and 37-year-old cousins.

Matthew Fischetti and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

Boxer 'socks' her auntie

An Olympic-qualifying boxer is accused of knocking an aunt unconscious during a family Fourth of July party, just days after she made her professional debut.

Kayla Gomez, 22, got into a fight with the relative over decorations that had been put up at the Texas gathering for her baby daughter, who was celebrating a birthday, according to a criminal complaint obtained by the El Paso Times.

Gomez, who had just made her pro-boxing premiere June 19 in California after notching 18 amateur national championships, bashed the relative in the head with both fists when the argument turned physical, leaving her with "visible injuries," police said.

The aunt could not recall how many punches she took because she blacked out, according to the affidavit. *Patrick Reilly*

Cruise-ship hair 'n' 'grope'

A cruise-ship hairstylist is facing federal charges after allegedly molesting multiple women inside a small, windowless barbershop during their appointments, according to the US Attorney's Office.

Pranit Pawar — a 26-year-old Indian citizen working aboard the Virgin Voyages ship Brilliant Lady on an Alaskan cruise — lured unsuspecting passengers from the main salon into a secluded, dimly lit barbershop room to carry out the assaults in a twisted scheme, according to a federal complaint released Monday. The handsy hairdresser allegedly confessed to taking four to five women into the barbershop to give them "massages," and the document details two of those alleged attacks on June 26 involving victims identified only as "V1" and "V2." *Daniel Cody*

EMMANUEL MACRON
Visiting Syria.

Blasts by Macron's hotel

At least 18 people, including four police officers, were injured in two explosions reported in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday, close to the hotel where French President Emmanuel Macron was staying.

Explosives, described as "crude in construction" by Syrian authorities, were planted inside a car parked on the side of the road and inside a trash can, the SANA news agency reported.

The devices detonated about 410 feet from the Four Seasons hotel in a busy area, according to the BBC, and footage shared on social media showed smoke billowing into the air.

Faraj al-Qashquosh, the country's deputy tourism minister, was among the 18 people injured.

"Investigations are ongoing to uncover the circumstances of the attack and identify those involved," the country's Ministry of the Interior told SANA.

Chris Bradford

'A' team: US, SoKo & Japan

On the sidelines of the NATO summit, the foreign ministers of South Korea, Japan and the US signed an agreement to cooperate on the deployment of small modular reactors in third countries, South Korea's foreign ministry said Wednesday.

South Korea's Cho Hyun, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi agreed the allies will work together to provide competitive options for meeting energy demands. *Reuters*

'TOAST' OF E. END

Classic diner is eggstra popular

Instagram/@alixearle

COUNTER CULTURE: Babe's in Sag Harbor is drawing crowds (top and above, right) for its 8-seat, no-reservation diner with traditional fare and collabs with famed NYC eateries like (above, left) lox king Barney Greengrass.

By KYRA BRESLIN

In the bougie Hamptons, where more cafes are serving $20 iced matchas and $32 over-the-top breakfast creations, these days it's rare to find a humble abode serving classic diner grub.

That partly explains the lines outside Babe's, a new eight-seat, no-reservation Sag Harbor diner that has become one of the East End's hottest year-round breakfast spots since opening in May.

Local families, summer visitors and celebrities, including Meg Ryan and Neil Patrick Harris, all queue for the same counter seat and the same stack of banana pancakes.

"We wanted Babe's to feel democratic. Everybody waits. Everybody sits at the same counter," Julian Cavin, one of its founders told The Post.

"People may see a line and think it's exclusive, but it's really the opposite. There are only so many seats, but the spirit of the place is for everyone."

Founders' vision

Cavin, 36, and Jonny Shipes, 46, two New York City natives and entrepreneurs, both now full-time East Hampton residents, wanted to bring diner nostalgia to the Hamptons.

This past December, Cavin, founder of popular Greenberg's Bagels, and Shipes, who built his career in the music business as the CEO of GoodTalk Records, put their heads together.

"We kept talking about the kind of places that become part of your routine," Shipes said. "Babe's was never meant to be a summer thing. We wanted to build something that felt like it belonged in Sag Harbor all year, not just during high season."

Housed inside a cedar-shingled cottage with a red checkerboard floor and eight red leather counter stools, Babe's was designed to feel like an intimate melting pot that boils together the pair's love of food and NYC culture through an East End lens.

The place has 16 employees but both owners are quick to jump into the kitchen if needed.

And the name?

While watching "The Sandlot" with his 3-year-old son, Cavin chose "Babe's"—a nod to the film, baseball, and, eventually, the nickname the partners call each other.

The menu features items ranging in price from $15 to $25, such as their beloved bacon, egg and cheese on a Kaiser roll, challah French toast on Zabar's bread, blueberry pancakes, spicy vodka chicken parm sandwiches, ribeye cheesesteaks, and Shipes' beloved lemon pepper wings.

Because it is the Hamptons after all, the priciest order is the $40 crispy chicken and waffles.

"There's no microgreens on it [the menu]," said Cavin. "It's classic American diner fare, but it's just naturally elevated by the ingredients we're using from local and Baldor [a premier food distributer], and then the collaborations," he added.

Babe's is already getting rave reviews from customers.

"Babes is the casual diner we needed out east," East Hampton resident Samantha Winnick told The Post. "Sitting on the stools reminds me of being a kid in the Hamptons and going to the Poxabogue Diner back in the day. The food is incredible, and the staff is the nicest."

She sees Babe's as a way to fill the void left by the loss of local institutions like Estia's, which have given way to trendier concepts.

NYC food collabs

"Don't miss the egg and cheese with the hash brown. It's the best since Dreesen's griddle," she added, of another now-defunct casual dining option.

Babe's has run collaborations with Barney Greengrass, Mark's Off Madison and Santo Taco, the owners call part of the fun.

"I thought I was gonna be very hands-off," Shipes said. "And then you open a diner, which is a whole living, breathing organism in its own right."

He even enjoys engaging with the crowds waiting in line.

"That has become kind of like a rewarding thing for me, because I enjoy taking care of people."

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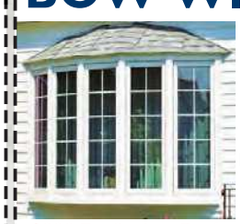

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Power Failure

Zo's green dreams = heat-wave nightmares

ZUMAPRESS.com

Hot enough: Scorching temps had NYers frying eggs on the sidewalks.

AS temperatures hit 100 degrees last week, New York City's unconventional mayor did something pretty conventional: He urged people to use less electricity.

But when Mayor Mamdani urged residents to set their air conditioners to 78 degrees (a past practice of both Democrats and Republicans alike), he revealed something far more harmful than the heat index: how much Albany's policies have driven New York City's power grid to the point of collapse.

Several factors are at play every summer. About 90% of homes today have air conditioning; as recently as the 1980s, most didn't. Portions of the electric system are extremely old by national standards, and the sheer physics of generating and distributing the appropriate voltage and amperage to every corner of such a dense and diverse cityscape borders on the miraculous.

Tighter ozone-emission rules began taking effect in 2023, forcing about a dozen of the city's smaller power plants to close — making it even tougher to get juice to every corner. Recall that the city nearly had rolling blackouts a year ago, as temperatures spiked and older plants broke down in the heat.

KEN GIRARDIN

That's why, as far back as the 1990s, mayors have made public appeals on the hottest summer days asking New Yorkers to set thermostats to 78 degrees. Rudy Giuliani, hardly an "eco-socialist," did it. So did Mike Bloomberg, and Bill de Blasio, and Eric Adams.

To be sure, 78 isn't an especially comfortable temperature in a withering heat wave, and the actual benefit for the grid is tiny. And, as The Post reported, Mamdani's City Hall didn't exactly lead by example. Fifteen out of 20 spots in municipal office buildings were found to be maintaining much cooler, and much more bearable, temperatures.

Critics were right to mock Mamdani's hypocrisy. But what they missed is that his call inadvertently revealed a problem he himself helped cause: the frightening weakness of NYC's electric grid — a weakness that makes a 78-degree floor an urgent demand.

The state's energy policy went off the rails last decade, when Albany set unreachable climate goals, then forced electric utilities to implement them. Mamdani has fiercely defended that 2019 climate law at every turn, even as the negative consequences have piled up.

When Mamdani entered the Assembly in early 2021, Con Edison and others were tearing up a century-old playbook that had successfully balanced reliability and cost. Suddenly the utility companies had to pull double-duty as climate crusaders — and as Albany's bagmen to pay for their multi-trillion-dollar boondoggle.

That distracted utilities from their near-term maintenance obligations on the geriatric grid, as they spent ratepayer cash and untold attention on an abstract push toward economy-wide electrification. Lawmakers looked the other way as delivery rates surged.

Assemblyman Mamdani was among the most extreme voices pressing energy policy even further in the wrong direction, particularly when it came to the actual generation of electricity. He fiercely opposed allowing private companies to upgrade their power plants — something that could have reduced greenhouse emissions and trimmed electricity costs, if Albany hadn't blocked the way.

Instead, the air in New York City is dirtier, electricity prices are higher and the grid is more fragile because of green policies Mamdani himself championed.

But those bad choices can get lost in the haze of online clout-chasing today. Rather than dunking on him, Mamdani's critics should be talking about how to put New York's energy focus back on cost and reliability.

That means building new power plants posthaste, and peeling back the various climate policies that helped make electric bills jump by almost 50% in the city (and almost double in parts of Upstate) since 2019. It's less sexy than bashing the mayor over thermostat hypocrisy, but it speaks more directly to one of New York's biggest self-inflicted challenges.

Mamdani prevailed in last year's mayoral election because he was never made to explain how much his agenda would actually cost, or how he'd pay for it. The mayor didn't triumph in the market of ideas, nor did socialism itself. Instead, his rivals failed to demonstrate that Mamdani's policy prescriptions are demonstrably wrong.

That problem persists. The green-energy policies that Mamdani and his allies support continue to threaten New York's ability to keep everyone comfortable in the heat.

So we can't afford to miss any chance to engage him in a substantive argument over his tax, spending and regulatory policies that will permanently change New York City for the worse.

Ken Girardin is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

THE WEEK'S BEST OF The Babylon Bee

"It's always the ones you least suspect, you know," said Democratic voter Stacy Verdant. "Looking back, there is just no way anyone could have seen this coming. Why couldn't there be some sort of clue about creeps like this? It's such a shock."

Mitch McConnell's Staff Assures Public His Death Will Not Prevent Him From Finishing His Term

"No one would know the difference," one McConnell staffer said. "We can assure the American people that, even if Senator McConnell should be confirmed dead in the coming weeks, they can expect the same level of focus and attention he has exhibited for the last several years."

Mamdani Offers To Cool New Yorkers Down By Sending Them To Siberian Gulag

Mamdani told reporters, "It's simple, but effective. Siberia is lovely this time of year. And quite refreshing."

"Look who we caught smuggling in illegal waffles," said Trump, displaying pictures of the handcuffed Belgian team en route back to Europe. "They're not sending us their best, Belgium."

NEW YORK POST
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Dems' Moral Bankruptcy

Now they turn on Nazi-tattooed alleged rapist Graham Platner? After all these months of defending him and making excuses — knowing full well what a repugnant dirtbag he is?

Let's be honest: At this late date, the accusation that Platner raped an ex-girlfriend should shock absolutely *no one*. That it took so long for Dems to cut him off speaks volumes.

Indeed, the only reason they're deserting him now is not that they've finally grown a moral spine; it's that they fear his grotesque character won't fly with normal voters.

Not only would a continued Platner campaign for Maine's Senate seat almost certainly fail; voters *nationwide* may now realize Democrats are morally bankrupt — that they stand for nothing, except the acquisition of raw political power by any means.

After all, polls had recently tightened, with both Platner and his GOP rival, Sen. Susan Collins, virtually tied. In one poll, Platner trailed Collins by a whopping 21 points among the very people he pretends to champion: working folks, specifically those who lack four-year college degrees.

Yet, until the rape allegation, Dems lined up squarely by him: He's "my kind of man," gushed Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.). Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) vowed to "do everything I can to make sure" Platner is Maines' next senator.

Even *mainstream* Dems tolerated his candidacy, seeing it as part of a path to Democratic control of the Senate — while overlooking his disqualifying traits or taking the coward's approach and remaining silent.

Yet his flaws were beyond glaring: He wore a tattoo of a Nazi symbol *on his chest* for nearly 20 years. He once described himself as a communist, though later claimed he wasn't one. He trashed decorated Navy SEAL Chris Kyle and called another soldier who was shot in Afghanistan a "dumb motherf---er" who "didn't deserve to live."

Nor did allegations of how he treated women arise just this week. Last month The New York Times reported women "describing volatile and 'toxic' relationships that were unsettling and at times emotionally wrenching." That's all *on top of* his disgusting socialist, antisemitic politics.

Fact is, Democrats have been so wrapped up in their Trump hate, they failed to develop any *realistic* political agenda likely to improve the lives of voters. Can anyone name a single, viable policy prescription they're pushing to benefit Americans?

Abolishing ICE? Voters don't want that. Defund the police? They'd have *minorities* up in arms. Men in women's bathrooms or on their sports teams? That's an 80-20 issue against Democrats.

The Platner case recalls how Dems exploited Joe Biden's growing mental impairments and pushed to get him reelected, before forcing him to drop his campaign *only after* they could no longer hide his condition. Then they unilaterally chose (without *any* voters' consent) word-salad queen Kamala Harris, strictly because they saw her as their best chance to hold power. Clearly, these people don't belong anywhere *near* the levers of power.

Dems have a big problem. They need an agenda that's not Orange Man Bad. They need to focus on what voters want.

They need to purge the radicals and sleazebags among them.

Until they do all that, *none* of them deserves anyone's vote.

Zo Kicks Off Socialized Housing

Mayor Mamdani is officially kicking off his scheme to socialize the city's housing stock with his "Fix the City" program.

The idea is to target Gotham's worst landlords by levying heavy fines and taking court action to confiscate their buildings if they don't fix violations and/or pay the fines. All that's missing is the slogan: Tenants of New York unite! Dilapidated public housing for all!

Don't doubt it: The New York State Tenant Bloc, once headed by Cea Weaver, Mamdani's tenant czar, is strongly pushing City Hall to use a $2.2 billion fund to "take housing off landlords' hands." City Hall's comrades blame the Big Apple's housing crisis on "greedy" landlords — mostly small-time, working-class property owners — and they fiercely believe ownership by government and community groups is the solution.

Yet a 2019 state law limiting rent increases to recover landlords' costs for repairs and upgrades has proved a disaster: Landlords simply can't afford to make the repairs; they even leave vacant units that don't meet code empty, rather than shell out money they can't recover for the repairs. That creates an opening for the Mamdani-style Marxists: They make it financially impossible to meet code, then look to seize property when it's not met.

Weaver herself has openly promoted the idea of imposing low rents (via rent freezes) and high taxes to squeeze owners into foreclosure so the city could "seize" their buildings.

Plus, Mamdani allies in the City Council and state Legislature have introduced measures facilitating such seizures to give "qualified" nonprofits and tenants "a first right to collectively purchase their buildings when a landlord sells." Both bills target *distressed and at-risk* multifamily buildings, where landlords are *forced* to sell.

The good news: Nonprofits have yet to join Mamdani's program because they realize many rent-stabilized buildings lack the rent rolls needed to support operating costs.

Oh, and huge subsidies — paid for with higher taxes — would be required into perpetuity to maintain this housing stock.

Meanwhile, lenders are pulling out of the rent-stabilized market to limit their exposure, and developers are focusing solely on building market-rate apartments. As for tenants, they need only look at New York City Housing Authority buildings, with their $80 billion worth of backlogged repairs, to see just what they're in for.

letters@nypost.com

New Platner Allegations Finally Get Dems' Attention

THE ISSUE: Democrats calling for Graham Platner to drop out of the Senate race following rape allegations.

Graham Platner

•The progressive wing of the Democratic Party spent months making one excuse after the other for disgraced US Senate candidate Graham Platner, and it worked ("Platner 'Rape,'" July 7).

He became Maine's Democratic nominee. But now they are calling for accountability after an ex-girlfriend's rape allegation against him.

What do these hardcore left-wingers want to have happen to Platner if he's found guilty? Who would arrest him? Who would keep him removed from society? Who would make sure the victim has closure? Because the ideology growing in the modern Democratic Party would prevent all of these actions from taking place.

It's not a coincidence that a party connected to the breakdown of the law would attract someone with such serious accusations of criminal behavior. **Evan Grollman**
Highland Park, NJ

•Could Dems' cowardice be more clear? An SS tattoo is acceptable to our fine senators from New York, home to the single largest Jewish community in the United States and outside of Israel. However, once they hear rape, they condemn him in a phony gesture of nobility.

So having tattooed a symbol advocating for the horrors committed against Jews is not worthy of condemnation?

The bard said conscience makes cowards of us all, but that assumes one has a conscience.
Elizabeth Schultz
Manhattan

•So when Platner's poll numbers showed him leading Republican Maine Sen. Susan Collins by 10 points, all the Democratic politicians said the party had a large tent, even welcoming the Nazi-tattooed accused sexual predator Platner. Then his poll numbers started to drop and Sen. Collins was catching up. That's when these shameful Democrats decided to believe all women. **Brenda Wang**
Middletown, NJ

•Let's see: A Nazi tattoo is OK, assault allegations are OK, disparaging remarks about combat veterans are OK — but a rape allegation and now he's not Dems' "kind of man" anymore! The Democratic Party is a national embarrassment!
Jim Voltmer, Marion, NC

•Democrats really picked a beaut when they chose Platner as their savior to be their nominee to serve as the next senator from Maine. If the Dem headhunters truly vetted Platner, with all his warts, I wonder who they turned down. **Walter Goldeski**
East Brunswick NJ

Trump's Dubious FIFA Call

THE ISSUE: Pres. Trump's intervention with FIFA's president and the reversal of Folarin Balogun's red card.

•I didn't think Folarin Balogun's hit deserved a red card, but what does it say about FIFA that it reversed a call based on a phone call from the White House ("Trump's pitch to FIFA," July 7)?

FIFA, which has been accused of being corrupt in the past, certainly looks even more corrupt now.

If our president can call FIFA and get it to change the card, should another country's president have the same ability? Would America have minded if another country's leader — maybe even a team America would've had to play — convinced FIFA to change a call?
Edward Drossman
Manhattan

•When it comes to dishonorable conduct, there is simply no bottom for President Trump. He leaned on bootlicking FIFA President Gianni Infantino and was rewarded with a rescission of the red card that disqualified Balogun from playing against Belgium Monday in Seattle.

Infantino, whose own ethics are marginal if nonexistent, is also the man who invented a sham peace prize for the undeserving Trump. He has now entered the personal cabal of persons willing to lie, cheat or steal for Trump. **David Kahn**
Boca Raton, Fla.

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WNBA SCORNS ITS BEST

Targeting Caitlin Clark is a disaster for the sport

RICH LOWRY

WHAT sports league, handed a generational talent who has played brilliantly and delivered massive commercial dividends, would make this very same player seem unwelcome and an object of scorn? The WNBA.

Caitlin Clark arrived in the league three seasons ago already a superstar considered one of the greatest college players in the history of the sport, and instantly boosted the league — otherwise a commercially marginal outfit — to another level. For her trouble, the Indiana Fever star has been treated like a virus that the league's antibodies seek to reject.

The latest controversy erupted after a player with the Phoenix Mercury named Alyssa Thomas pressed her fist to Clark's neck when the Fever guard was prone on the court. The officials missed the foul in real time, but the league later deemed it a flagrant foul and suspended Thomas for one game.

The episode was shocking given Clark's importance to women's basketball — a little like Tom Brady getting clotheslined, or Shohei Ohtani getting hit by a pitch, and the refs or umps not noticing. Still, ABC News ran a sympathetic segment about Thomas, who is black, getting death threats after the incident.

Meanwhile, sports influencer Emmanuel Acho claimed the incident showed that Clark is more trouble than she's worth. That's a little like saying in the 1940s or 1950s that Major League Baseball didn't need Ted Williams.

Now of course, Clark hasn't proved herself one of the greatest offensive forces in her league's history, the way Teddy Ballgame did. She has a chance, though, if she stays healthy — all the more reason for the WNBA to keep her from getting singled out for hard fouls on the court.

Players envious of Clark should realize that the only reason a segment of fans care about the league is that she is playing in it. A player who is very good, and also famous and charismatic, is a priceless commodity for any league — and the entire WNBA should be grateful for what it has in Clark.

They used to say of the New York Yankees that Yankees are born, not made. In a similar vein, the WNBA could have had a limitless marketing budget and would have been unable manufacture the Caitlin Clark phenomenon.

It is organic and not replicable. Clark fills arenas at home and away, so much so that teams sometimes temporarily move to larger NBA arenas to accommodate the crowds. She drives huge spikes in TV ratings. Her jersey is the league's best-seller.

By one estimate, she accounts for more than a quarter of the league's revenue. In terms of sheer economic value, Caitlin Clark is the Elon Musk of the WNBA.

The root of her appeal is that she's truly extraordinary on the court, a top scorer and exceptional playmaker. This year, she's been averaging roughly 21 points and 8 assists per game.

She holds the record for most assists in a game, and most assists in a season, and reached 500 career assists at the fastest pace in WNBA history. Her total offensive production per game — points plus assists — is tops in the league this year. And she should be just getting started.

But her WNBA tenure has been marked by controversies with an identity-politics edge, since it's not hard to imagine that the predominantly black league with a disproportionate number of openly lesbian players looks askance at the white, straight player who gets outsized attention. Clark's teammate Sophie Cunningham said after the latest incident that Clark is clearly being targeted.

The league should make it clear that — as a sport and entertainment business — it wants no part of such an agenda, and that it highly values its most valuable player.

Clark's agent has said, correctly, that there's no way the WNBA *can* pay Clark what she's worth. But the league can provide an environment for her to reach her full potential — the very least it can do for Clark, the sport and their fans.

X: @RichLowry

Americans' Choice: Jefferson vs. Marx

WE have a choice between two conflicting worldviews: one of freedom and dignity, the other of a regimented society based on submission to the ideology of a ruling elite. One liberates, the other enslaves. One points the way toward a new dawn for humanity, the other toward the dark night of collectivism.

These visions were set forth in two of the most important documents in history, written just 72 years apart: The Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1776, and "The Communist Manifesto," published in 1848. The struggle, which is going on all around us, is a manifestation of these two mutually exclusive worldviews.

The Declaration reflected the thinking of the most brilliant minds ever assembled in one place: merchants, planters, lawyers, inventors, a physician and a member of the clergy, most distinguished in their individual fields. They did not need a cause, but they believed in one.

DON FEDER

"The Communist Manifesto" was written largely by Karl Marx — a miserable failure, an angry, bitter crank who sought greatness by attacking a system he did not understand. He called for the abolition of capitalism without ever setting foot on a factory floor. He was also a racist and an antisemite.

The Declaration of Independence is only 1,320 words, and most of that is taken up with a list of the colonists' grievances. The preamble, which contains the essence of the document's political philosophy, is 133 words.

"The Communist Manifesto" is roughly 12,000 words. Later, Marx and his collaborator, Friedrich Engels, expanded on it in "Das Kapital," a stultifying three-volume work of 2,500 pages. Like "Mein Kampf," it is best used as a doorstop.

Compare the records of these two worldviews. The vision of the Founders took America from a colonial backwater to the nation that dominated the 20th century. From our factories and workshops has flowed an endless stream of inventions that have shaped the modern world and eased the burden of humanity, including the incandescent light bulb, the airplane, the refrigerator, the microchip and the internet.

"The less someone is in touch with reality, the more communism appeals to them."

Our prosperity lifted all boats: After World War II, we rebuilt the economies of our enemies. Our Constitution served as a model of representative government for emerging nations.

The record of communism is drenched in blood and reeks of human suffering. Since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, communism has been responsible for 65 million to 100 million deaths worldwide.

Marxism-Leninism has enriched our vocabulary with words and phrases such as gulags, killing fields, planned famines, death camps and purges. A large part of humanity is trapped in communist countries such as Cuba, China and North Korea. The Berlin Wall was not built to keep West Germans from fleeing to East Germany; Cuba has not taken in 2 million refugees from the United States.

Yet in America, communism — repackaged as democratic socialism — is making alarming inroads. Our largest city and America's financial hub has a Marxist mayor. Marxists just won Democratic primaries for two congressional seats in New York, one in Pennsylvania and one in Colorado. One of the winners in New York wants to abolish private property, borders and prisons; at Columbia, she led a pro-Hamas occupation.

History has come down to a life-and-death struggle between Americanism and communism.

Communism is monolithic; Americanism is individualistic. Communism demands obedience; Americanism seeks to persuade.

Americanism says rights come from God. Under communism, rights come from the state.

Americanism welcomes debate. Communism tries to crush it.

Americanism embraces human nature. Communism fights it at every turn, attempting to pound square pegs into round holes.

Still, intellectuals flock to its banner. The less someone is in touch with reality, the more communism appeals to them.

I have a fantasy about Karl Marx coming back to life. In it, the prophet of communism looks at the world his ideology created. He looks at the lights of the night sky in South Korea and the darkness in North Korea. He compares the repression in communist China with the freedom in Taiwan.

He surveys the rubble of what was once the Berlin Wall. He looks at the suffering in Cuba. He compares the gross domestic product of the United States and Russia.

And after he digests all this, the father of communism says to himself: "Man, what was I thinking?"

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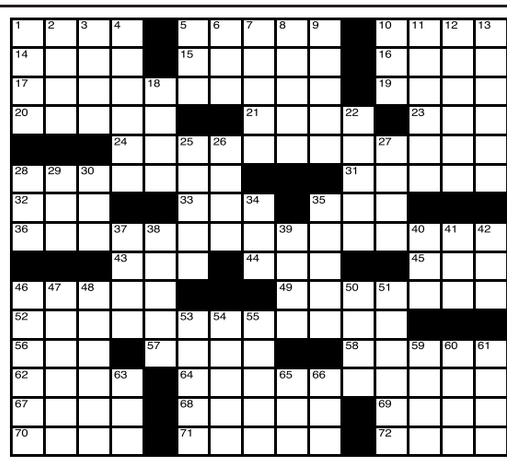

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE® GRAMS

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							RACK 1
A1	A1	A1	I1	U1	R1	Q10	
							RACK 2
A1	O1	N1	R1	D2	G2	N1	
							RACK 3
A1	E1	I1	T1	F4	R1	G2	1st Letter Triple
							RACK 4
E1	I1	U1	U1	R1	N1	Q10	Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 225

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS	SOLUTION	
	RACK 1 =	66
	RACK 2 =	8
	RACK 3 =	69
	RACK 4 =	82
	TOTAL	225
A1		E1 R1
I1	N1	T1 E1
R1	O1	A1 U1
A1	G2	G2 Q10
U1	A1	I1 I1
Q10	R1	R1 N1
A1	D2	F4 U1

PAR SCORE 155-165

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

Northdealer
N-Svulnerable

NORTH
♠ AQ 4
♡ K10
◇ AK43
♣ 10 543

WEST
♠ J □87
♡ 6532
◇ 2
♣ AQ98

EAST
♠ K652
♡ 4
◇ Q9876
♣ 762

SOUTH
♠ 10 3
♡ AQJ987
◇ J 10 5
♣ KJ

□□□□	□□□□	□□□□	□ □□□
1 □T	Pass	4♡	AllPass

Openinglead– ◇ 2

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The road to success has many detours — plus tempting places to park. As declarer, the best way not to run off the road is to count your tricks before you leave home.

Against four hearts, West led his singleton diamond, and South avoided an immediate wreck when he took dummy's ace. He drew trumps, pitching a club and a spade from dummy, and let the jack of diamonds ride.

East took the queen and shifted to a club: jack, queen. When West then led a spade, South had to finesse with the queen; he had two diamond winners, but the suit was blocked. East won and led a club to West's ace. Down one.

"Next time I'll raise to 3NT," South sighed.

South got detoured. He can count six trump tricks, a spade, two diamonds and a club. After South draws trumps, he can lead his king of clubs.

West wins and leads a spade: queen, king. If East returns a spade, South wins and forces out West's queen of clubs. Then South parks his diamond loser on dummy's ten, assuring the game.

Word Force

PROFILER

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 13** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
GRANDEE

agree	edger	greed
anger	genre	green
eager	grade	raged
eared	grand	range

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PIONEERS OF BLUES MUSIC — **Solution: 10 letters**

U G C N I L P O J A N I S E E
R T N I P Z Z A J I M I H N L
B I R I P S M U R D E H T O A
A B A I W E I L L I W Y A B C
N N K L S S E S (F) U E M M T S
O S N I F F I R G (L) O N P C R
T C H A N T H O S N (O) S A O E
P A T T Y G B E L D O (W) R M T
A U R D E E R J N L N S E P A
L K I K S P I I O D E A D O W
C U B S S M U D D Y R C B S L
C L I I M N G M A R A I N E Y
I E V Y S I R O B E R T X R N
R L L I G H T N I N O X I D I
E E N I L W O H O P K I N S V

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Bands, BB King, Bessie, Birth, Cello, Chant, Composer, Dixon, Drums, Elvis Presley, Epic, Eric Clapton, Flair, Griffin, Hendrix, Hopkins, Howlin, Hymns, James, Janis, Jazz, Jimi, Jimmy, Joplin, Lightnin', Ma Rainey, Muddy, Patty, Piano, Reed, Robert, Scale, Skip, Smith, Solo, Songs, Soul, Swing, Tampa Red, T-Bone, Ukulele, Urban, Vinyl, Waters, Willie, Wolf

Yesterday's Answer: Nightingale

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at *www.SudokuWiki.org*

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 40

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Very Easy #7,333

2			4					1
	3				1		2	
	9			7		3	6	
1	5			8			7	2
4		3				6		5
6	7			1			3	8
	4	7		2			5	
	2		6				9	
3					8			7

□ffi□□□#7,123

8			9					
		7				6		
	5		2			1	4	
	1	4		7				
9			8		6			4
				9		5	6	
	6	2			3			
		3				2		
					2			8

Quick Crossword

Across
1 Seaweed on tobiko maki
5 Trophy winner
10 Quaker grains
14 Sing the praises of
15 Striped Girl Scout Cookie
16 Tortilla sandwich
17 Suggestion for a 52-Across patron who didn't finish a book by closing time?
19 The Dalai __
20 Geena's "Thelma & Louise" co-star
21 Native Canadian
23 Not great
24 Reminder on a collection that can't leave a 52-Across?
28 Former South African president Nelson
31 Slices and __
32 Melber of MS NOW
33 Frequently, in poetry
35 March 14 dessert
36 Sign near a door slot of a 52-Across?
43 Look at
44 "Gangnam Style" rapper
45 Forever and a day
46 Group of lions
49 Home of Canadian curler Marc Kennedy
52 Community facility for researchers and book lovers
56 The "A" of IPA
57 __ fountain
58 Greek fable writer
62 Healthy piece
64 Advice for patrons who borrow materials from a 52-Across?
67 Prefix with phone
68 Twinkle
69 Raison d'__
70 Greek war god
71 County in southeast England
72 Furniture wood

Down
1 MLB playoff round
2 Diamond Head's island
3 Wants to take back
4 Security checkpoint request
5 CBS forensic franchise
6 See 34-Down
7 Corporation previously called Standard Oil of Indiana
8 Grieve
9 Dev of "Lion"
10 "Horned" bird
11 Language of the Quran
12 Snack steamed in a corn husk
13 Small shovels
18 Patella locale
22 Grammy winner Gorme
25 Like Kevin McCallister at Christmas
26 Inane
27 Feudal estate
28 Feb. follower
29 "Odds __ ... "
30 Tiny issue
34 With 6-Down, part of an Abraham Lincoln costume
35 Kingdom divisions
37 Food safety org.
38 Film spools
39 Peter the Great, for one
40 Not 'neath
41 Spot with many spots
42 Genetic material
46 Blood bank supply
47 __ skates
48 Worldwide cold spell
50 Scottish hillside
51 Shoelace hole
53 Mountain hangout
54 Role models
55 Curses
59 Fill until full
60 Other, in Oaxaca
61 Steal a glance
63 Humanities degs.
65 __ kwon do
66 Extreme sport with bunny hops

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nasdaq skids

The Nasdaq ended sharply lower Tuesday, weighed down by losses in Micron Technology and other chipmakers due to mounting doubts about the sustainability of Wall Street's AI-driven rally. The blue-chip Dow hit an intraday record high before retreating.

Rail deal offer

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern told a government agency they are willing to divest ownership stakes in some smaller railroads as part of their proposed $85 billion merger.

Fed balance

New York Fed President John Williams said inflation is still too high but reiterated his view that monetary policy is well positioned to achieve the Fed's dual mandate goals.

Cadillac recall

More than 14,000 Cadillac Vistiq electric vehicles were recalled over a risk of the third-row seat trapping a child. Hyundai made a similar recall in the wake of a 2-year-old girl's tragic death.

Stylish coach

US national soccer team coach Mauricio Pochettino gave struggling Hugo Boss a win as his signature attire of a $499 virgin wool blue shirt and matching pants went viral.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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GRILLING GROCERS

Owners: Team Zo barging in, demanding info

By LISA FICKENSCHER

Big Apple grocers and bodega owners claim city officials are walking into their stores demanding private information about their businesses, even as Mayor Mamdani's controversial plans for government-owned supermarkets pose a looming competitive threat, The Post has learned.

At a Tuesday press conference outside East Harlem's La Marqueta, the planned site for one of Mandani's five city-owned grocery stores, business leaders griped that nosy city representatives have been grilling and scaring grocers in The Bronx.

"It's a sneaky way of gathering information and it's unethical," said Fernando Mateo, spokesman for the United Bodegas of America, which represents 40,000 delis and bodegas in the city.

"These owners panic when they see a city official," he added. "They feel threatened by them walking in to ask questions."

Just the facts, Mam?

Uninformed officials in Mayor Mamdani's administration — which is setting up its own grocery network — are walking into businesses and trying to get private sales info, says Multicultural Business Coalition leader Frank Garcia (right).

Helayne Seidman/AP Photo/Angelina Katsanis

Tense Q&A sessions

The complaints come on the heels of an exclusive Monday report by The Post about local business leaders who met last month with city officials including Julie Su, deputy mayor for economic justice, to discuss the plan for publicly run stores known as NYC Groceries. Those groups said they were peppered with similar questions and refused to provide answers.

On Tuesday, store owners griped that city reps are asking about top-selling items, how many of them they sell each week and what they cost the business. The city's visits aren't sitting well with the National Supermarket Association, which represents some 800 independent supermarkets from New York to Florida.

The city's Economic Development Corp. is "claiming that they are getting information from supermarkets on how much we make in lottery, beer and cigarette sales and what our profit margins are," NSA president Anthony Pena told The Post.

The city, according to Pena, claims those are the stores' most profitable items.

"It's just untrue," he said.

He pointed to declining revenue on beer and cigarette sales, as well as the 6% commission on lottery tickets that has not changed in decades.

Frank Garcia, chairman of the Multicultural Business Coalition — which speaks for 50 chambers of commerce representing Asian, African, Caribbean, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Jewish-owned businesses in New York — is demanding a meeting with Mamdani.

Hizzoner's advisers "don't know what they are doing and we want to inform him," Garcia told The Post.

"The engagement with bodega owners is to better understand their concerns and to shape the products offered in the NYC Groceries stores," a spokesperson for Su told The Post. "The goal of these meetings is to ensure that the NYC Groceries stores are complementing the offerings of local bodegas, not competing against them.

"The administration is engaging a wide variety of experts, including supermarket associations, bodega owners, local grocers, residents, labor unions, food policy analysts, food justice advocates and other stakeholders as the plan for NYC Groceries is developed," the spokesperson added.

Garcia and his newly formed coalition launched this spring aim to raise $1 million to fight the mayor's proposal, as The Post exclusively reported. The group also has threatened to sue the city.

Airline headwind$: 85% jump in fuel

Fuel costs for US airlines jumped 85% in May to $6.66 billion as the Middle East conflict drove up prices, the Department of Transportation said Monday.

Airlines spent $3.62 billion on fuel in May 2025.

The cost per gallon of fuel in May was $4.09, up $1.88 over May 2025, the DOT added. Jet fuel costs in recent weeks have sharply dropped as tensions eased between Iran and the United States.

Fuel costs in April jumped by about 80%, to nearly $6.5 billion.

Jet fuel prices are down around 40% from their highs in April, but oil prices rose more than 2% on Tuesday after reports of attacks on vessels near the Strait of Hormuz revived fears of disruptions to shipping through the critical energy transit route. In late trading Tuesday, oil prices jumped 5% after the Treasury Department revoked a waiver that allowed Iran to sell oil

Airfares rose significantly after the Iran war began and have not yet fallen as a result of declining jet fuel prices.

As jet fuel prices surged, airlines raised ticket prices and bag fees, and cut schedules, but those steps offset only part of the rise in fuel costs. *Reuters*

ABC battles Carrmageddon

ABC pushed back against allegations that "The View" is not a real news program in a Tuesday reply to the Federal Communications Commission's probe of the show.

It cited thousands of comments in its support to argue the show should continue to have free rein on whom it books, suggesting the FCC was threatening its First Amendment rights.

The statement came in response to an FCC review of whether "The View" qualifies for exemption from a rule requiring broadcasts to give competing political candidates equal time.

FCC Chair Brendan Carr (right) has said the show isn't a bona fide news show, so it shouldn't get the exemption. The agency didn't respond to a request for comment.

"The First Amendment does not permit the government to sit in an editor's chair. Yet that is the seat the Commission now proposes to take — deciding which broadcast programs qualify as legitimate news and, for those it finds wanting, compelling them to surrender their airtime to guests they never chose to feature," ABC said in its filing.

"What has changed is not the program but the political climate around it," ABC wrote, urging the FCC to uphold its 2002 finding that the show is a real news program. *Ariel Zilber*

Wall St. over the moon

Brokers forecast 47% growth for SpaceX

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Wall Street on Tuesday revealed hugely bullish calls for Elon Musk's SpaceX after it started equity research coverage on the space firm, even as the stock largely trades on AI enthusiasm — not actual earnings.

More than a dozen brokers, including Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs, unveiled emphatic "buy" ratings on the stock, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, estimating it will soar 47% on average from Monday's closing price of $160.42.

Many of these powerhouse banks bought up SpaceX at $135 a share during its historic IPO last month and now they're expecting the price to shoot up to $236 on average.

It's a stark contrast to the quiet period that newly public companies typically see after their market debuts.

Financial firm Raymond James has emerged as the biggest SpaceX bull with a price target of $800, almost 500% higher than its IPO price.

"Just as railroads, electric grids, and the internet reshaped prior economic eras, we believe SpaceX is building the foundational platform for the next generation of industrial capacity," Raymond James analyst Brian Gesuale wrote in a note Tuesday.

Analysts for Deutsche Bank said SpaceX represents "the apex of civilizational ambition, oftentimes expressed in steel and fire, bending the arc of history."

Bank of America analysts said SpaceX, which owns satellite giant Starlink, is "paving the superhighway to the stars."

Yet SpaceX shares fell 6.8% Tuesday — about 25% lower than their June 16 closing price of $201.80 — alongside other tech and chip stocks as investors fear a potential "AI bubble."

The company has already seen its massive AI spending weigh on profits, as it lost nearly $5 billion last year, but analysts are hopeful it will come out on top in the long term thanks to its AI investments.

Yet some have cautioned that investors should be wary. Ahead of SpaceX's IPO, which priced the stock at $135 a share, Morningstar's Nicolas Owens valued the firm at just $63 per share, calling the stock "overvalued."

Skyrocket in flight

Stock for SpaceX, led by Elon Musk (right), is largely trading on AI enthusiasm but that hasn't stopped JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs from unveiling "buy" ratings for the newly public company.

Image Press Agency, Shutterstock

$47M 23andMe-a culpa

A federal bankruptcy judge Tuesday approved a $46.75 million settlement for victims of a 2023 data breach at the genetic testing company 23andMe, which exposed genetic and other personal information of an estimated 6.9 million customers.

Bankruptcy Judge Brian Walsh in St. Louis said the settlement was fair and equitable, and in the best interest of a trust overseen by the company's bankruptcy administrator.

The settlement will be reduced by $14.29 million previously disbursed in connection with the breach, making the total additional payout $32.46 million.

23andMe of Palo Alto, Calif., filed for protection from creditors in 2025. It cited the data breach, related litigation and falling demand for genetic testing products as reasons for its Chapter 11 filing. *Reuters*

Rivian stock down 18%

Shares of electric automaker Rivian tumbled 18% Tuesday after it disclosed plans to sell 75 million shares of common stock.

Based on Rivian's share price Monday evening, when the move was announced, the sale would raise about $1.5 billion.

The automaker said it plans to use the proceeds for "general corporate purposes" including equity requirements for a Department of Energy loan to support construction of its upcoming electric vehicle manufacturing facility in Georgia.

Rivian on Monday also forecast second-quarter revenue above analysts' estimates.

"The market reaction to its Q2 production and delivery figures, and 2026 outlook and strong overall market backdrop, means it's the right time for Rivian to secure additional funding," a rep said. *Dow Jones*

'End run' on debit card fees

For years, big banks have railed against legal regulations that cap how much they can charge for debit-card fees — and now some industry leaders are reportedly eyeing a potential deal that could help them get around those limits.

In recent months, JPMorgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and PNC Financial Services have held tentative talks about a deal to acquire a network owned by fintech company Fiserv, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Under the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, known as the Durbin amendment, banks face caps on how much they can collect from merchants on debit-card transactions routed through an external network, but they are exempt from the rule if they also own the network.

Some of the banks that looked at the Fiserv network have already decided they are unlikely to move forward, while others are concerned about political backlash from regulators and merchants, sources told the Journal.

But the talks are a sign of how keen big banks are to hike transaction fees, especially after Capital One Financial completed its $50.6 billion acquisition of Discover Financial last year, securing its own network and allowing it to negotiate directly with merchants. *Taylor Herzlich*

W. Cup TV fight looms

FIFA could have a new broadcast partner for the 2030 and 2034 World Cup, according to a report.

Netflix, Disney and Alphabet's YouTube are all interested in challenging Fox for US broadcast rights, CNBC reported Tuesday, citing sources.

Amazon and Apple, which owns global Major League Soccer rights, could also enter the mix, the sources said.

Talks between FIFA and potential media partners are expected to begin sometime in the next three months. *Wires*

RICHARD WHITE
Headed software giant.

Tech big out amid scandal

Richard White, the embattled co-founder and executive chairman of Australian software giant WiseTech Global, is stepping down after allegations emerged that the billionaire businessman exploited a woman's immigration status and financial insecurity for sex.

US-listed shares of WiseTech — which offers software that companies can use to manage and streamline logistics — soared more than 6% Tuesday.

The Australian Federal Police's human-exploitation task force launched an investigation into White earlier this year, per a report in the Australian Financial Review, after a complaint from a former executive from another company White controls — customer management registry Kyckr.

White on Tuesday again denied the allegations, adding that the claims have become an unnecessary distraction for the company.

Marc Vartabedian

Fiat EV car US debut

Fiat launched sales in the US of Topolino, its two-seat, fully electric compact car with a price starting from $13,995 and a range of up to 46 miles, the Stellantis brand said Tuesday.

Weighing just over 1,000 pounds and with a length of about 8 feet, the vehicle will initially be for use in private communities, resorts and golf courses, with a top speed of 19 mph.

The Topolino EV was launched in Europe in 2023, reviving the name of Fiat's popular 1930s model. *Reuters*

SCARY TRILL RIDE

By THOMAS BARRABI

If four of the states suing Meta for allegedly fueling a teen mental-health crisis prevail in their case, the company will be on the hook for a whopping $1.4 trillion in penalties, Meta says — a figure the tech giant blasted as "outlandish."

The Mark Zuckerberg-led company arrived at the gigantic sum — which is nearly as large as the company's entire market cap — based on how the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey have argued penalties should be calculated if they win the case.

The two sides are scheduled to face off in Oakland, Calif., federal court on Aug. 18.

"A sanction of that size has no analog in the history of consumer protection enforcement," Meta's attorneys wrote in the late Monday filing, adding that the states' proposals were "unsubstantiated" and "outlandish."

A total of 29 states are attached to the lawsuit against Meta, which accuses the company of major violations of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. The legislation bars the collection of data from underage users without parental consent.

'Profits over safety'

They further allege Facebook and Instagram were designed to be addictive to kids, causing a wave of issues ranging from anxiety and depression to self-harm and even suicide.

California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are also targeting Meta for allegedly misleading the public about safety risks.

Meta, which has strenuously denied wrongdoing, said the four states' proposed remedies go far beyond the scope of the case. They also accuse Meta of improperly double- or even triple-counting teen users who allegedly experienced harm based on how long they use Facebook and Instagram each day.

"These remedies have no basis in the record in this case, are entirely unmoored from the claimed deceptive statements or unfair practices, are based on features this Court has held are immune from liability under Section 230, and violate the legal and due process limits on the scope of [Unfair Practices Act] penalties," the company's lawyers wrote, referring to the section of the Communications Act of 1934 that broadly protects online platforms from being held liable for content posted by their users.

While the states' specific proposals remain under seal, plaintiff attorneys said at a court hearing last month that they were guided by local laws and the estimated number of underage users in each state who were affected.

"Our lawsuit alleges Meta has prioritized profits over the safety of kids and fueled the mental-health crisis we see impacting a generation of American children," a spokesperson for the California attorney general's office said in a statement.

Reps for the attorneys general of Colorado and New Jersey declined to comment. Kentucky's AG did not respond.

Meta faces more than 2,400 pending lawsuits brought by school districts, parents and governments in what critics have described as a "Big Tobacco moment" for social media.

With Wires

Face-$hook

Mark Zuckerberg-led Meta, facing a mega-lawsuit from 29 states for allegedly fueling a teen mental-health crisis, calculated a $1.4 trillion bill if four of those states prevail. "A sanction of that size has no analog in the history of consumer protection enforcement," Meta's attorneys argued in court.

BFA.com / BACKGRID

Meta sweating $1.4T slam if it loses lawsuit

$amsung up and down

Samsung Electronics on Tuesday flagged a 19-fold jump in second-quarter operating profit, surpassing its combined earnings over the past three years, but investors wiped more than $80 billion off its market value over concerns on how long the AI bonanza will last.

While Samsung has benefited from the AI data center boom, the outlook for chipmakers has been clouded by worries US tech giants may slow their infrastructure plans and curb chip demand.

Samsung said in a preliminary earnings report that its operating profit likely reached an all-time high of about $58 billion, a 56% jump from the previous quarter's record. *Reuters*

DeepSeek AI chip develop

Chinese startup DeepSeek is developing its own AI chip, sources told Reuters — a push that could reduce its reliance on Nvidia and Huawei chips, which it has depended on to train and run its globally popular models.

The chip is designed for inference — the stage of AI computing in which a trained model generates responses for users — rather than for training new models, the sources said.

If successful, DeepSeek's expansion into semiconductor development would mark a major strategic shift for a company widely hailed in China as the country's AI champion — potentially adding to challenges faced by Chinese tech giant Huawei.

DeepSeek rose to global fame more than a year ago after releasing two highly efficient AI models that went viral worldwide, surprising many in Silicon Valley and Washington.

Reuters

EMPLOYMENT

ENTERTAINMENT

Vice President, Principal Solutions Architect, GenAI at AIG PC Global Services, Inc. (Jersey City, NJ): Manage the architecture & roadmap for multiple large & mid-sized business applications, ensuring they align with AIG's GenAI strategy & enterprise standards. Lead the development of technical & functional solution architectures, covering the cloud, security, risk, compliance, integration, DevOps, & automation areas. Work with leading the architecture, design, & road mapping of large-scale business applications & functional technology solutions, with a focus on secure architecture & AI integration with Agile & lean methodologies; managing end-to-end architecture (functional, logical, & physical) for multiple business applications across different geographies & program sizes; collaborating with stakeholders to drive the adoption of AI/ML & cloud-native technologies, ensuring alignment with EA/ITIL frameworks & standards (enterprise, ethical, & responsible AI); managing technical solution architecture in hybrid environments, integrating both on-prem & cloud-based (AWS) infrastructure to create secure & scalable solutions; business ecosystems; SaaS; IaaS; PaaS; APIs; Microservices; Open Data; DevSecOps; architectural solutioning; distributed-based architecture; designing large-scale systems; data pipelines & third-party system integrations; &, communicating complex architecture concepts to both technical & non-technical stakeholders. Req's Bachelor's deg. + 5 yrs exp. Salary Range: $261,248-$261,248/year. Please apply at: https://tinyurl.com/mrhmv9ct

FINANCIAL

ANALYST (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY work clsely w/ Prtfolio Mngrs to rsrch invstmt ideas, utlzng a fndmntl bttms-up apprch to stk selctn in a mkt neutrl cntxt. Sal: $179,088-$200,000/yr. This pos may invlv wrk at unantcptd Millennium locs in the US. Reqs a Bach deg in Econ, Bus Anlytcs, Finc, or a rltd fld, + 4 yrs in a prof'l anlyst, or rltd, occup in the fin'l or invstmt ind. Must incl 2 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: Fin'l Mdlng, incl rvnu bld & thr-stmt mdls; lvrg pu fin'l dsclsrs & tringlt 3P dta; Bloomberg Terminal; Corp Finc, Acctg, & Valuatn; Invstmt Due Dlgnc, incl prepg for, leadng, & obtaing tkaways from exprt calls, mngmt mtngs, confrcs, prim rsrch, & 3P advsrs; fndmntl invstng, incl drftng & ptchng invstmt rcmdtns; rsk-rwrd of invstmt scen; implmt cnsstnt invstmt prcss bsd on fin'l & valuatn KPIs; & invstmt bnkng & TMT prvt eqty. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0777 when applying.

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FINANCIAL

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCHER (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY will bld Millennium's next gen in-house anlytcs, Trdr & Risk sppt tools. Sal: $175,000-$250,000/yr. Reqs a Mstr's deg in Finc, Math, or a rltd quantitative fld, & 3 yrs in quantitative anlys & rsrch, or rltd, ocup in the fincl or invstmnt ind. Must incl 3 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: Python prgmg; Mathematics and apld mathematics, incl linear algebra, optmzn with linear prgmg & dynmc prgmg, stats, prbl, PDEs, and Monte Carlo smln; & Blding frnt ofc pxng tools and risk rpts. Must incl 2 yrs of exp w/: obj oriented prgmg using C++ in prodn envirs; Opt pxng and risk mgmt in enrgy mkts; Stochastic calculus for commodities modeling, incl volatility term strc modeling; & Analyzing U.S. natural gas & power enrgy mkt strc & risk. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0771 when applying.

PROFESSIONAL

Manager w/Centric Brands Holding LLC (NY, NY). Handle & resolve database-rel issues to ensure smooth & uninterrupted operations. Req Bach Deg or foreign equiv in Fin, Comp Sci or a closely rel field, & 2 yrs of exp wrking as a Bus Analyst, Investmnt Banking Analyst, or in a rel positn at an internat'l company or Bulge Bracket Bank. Exp must incl: Consolidating divisional data/info & presenting total company Profit & Loss; Improving quality, efficiency & accuracy of financl tools, by wrking to implement new models & systms; Compiling, cleaning & analyzing lrge amounts of data from different data sources; Data prep & transformation utilizing best practices for mng & processing high-volume data; Wrking w/ enterprise resource planning (ERP) systms, incl SAP, for handling financial transactns & reporting; Using Power BI, SQL, & Power Query for data analysis, automation, reporting, & integrating multiple data sources efficiently. Hybrid 3 dys/wk in office. $127,500/yr. Send resume via email to Christian Boglivi – Senior Director Human Resources CBoglivi@CentricBrands.com, Job Ref #: M2026.

Junior GIS Developer w/Savills, Inc. (NY, NY). Assist GIS team w/ customized 2D/3D visual presentatns fr internal clients, wrkng w/ 3D scenes, incl creating, modifying, mng, & publishing. Req Bach or frgn equiv in Geography, Geographic Info Systems, or rel field. Exp or academic training must incl: using ESRI GIS software incl, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, Business Analyst, & ESRI's Network Analyst tools; JavaScript; HTML; CSS; Python; Digitizing 3D datasets, incl office & industrial buildings; Geodatabases; GeoJSON; Shapefiles; MS SQL Server; & EMSI data. Fully remote work avail. $71,028.00/yr. Resumes to Attn: Job Ref #: JGD451030, Savills, 399 Park Av, NY, NY 10022. Email: Resumes to: careers@savills.us Job Ref #: JGD451030

Delivery Process Owner, Associate Director (New York, NY): Enable delivery outcomes for assigned squad(s) to ensure predictable execution & high-quality delivery. Work with software development lifecycle; Agile delivery management & Agile methodologies (Scrum, Kanban, or SAFe); AI-enabled delivery practices, including implementing & coaching AI tools in delivery workflows; enterprise delivery standards development, including establishing delivery frameworks & leading communities of practice; &, executive stakeholder management. Req's Bachelor's degree + 6 yrs exp. Salary Range: $150,301 - $163,400 per year. Email resume to chicago.recruiting@fitchratings.com or mail resume to David M. Arnold, Fitch Group Services, Inc., One North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606. Must Ref# DR-FG-033. No phone calls.

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NEW YORK POST
Classified Autos Wanted Listings

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Dumpling Ninja LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/17/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Evan Fan Chen: 80 Smith St Unit 4, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY DEVIATION FROM USCG REGULATIONS
EFFECTIVE FROM 21:15 ON JULY 10, 2026 THROUGH 22:45 ON JULY 10, 2026, (RAIN DATE: JULY 11, 2026) THE LONG BEACH BRIDGE WILL REMAIN IN THE CLOSED POSITION.

Legal Notices published in all NYS counties.

Place your notice in NYP Classifieds.

Email Karen at kinscho@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

Nassau County New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals, invited by the County of Nassau, will be received by the County Executive of Nassau County, in the office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, Room 117, in the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York, on **Tuesday, August 11, 2026 until 10:30 am,** at which time the Proposals were accompanied with and presented separate from the required Bid Security will be publicly opened and read aloud, in the Meeting Room of the Nassau County Legislature, and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

Glen Cove Avenue Retaining Wall Rehabilitation Contract No. H66302-01G

The Glen Cove Avenue Retaining Wall project consists of the removal of an existing stacked stone wall and replacement with a new 400-feet reinforced concrete wall. Temporary sheeting will be required behind the new wall. A new ADA compliant sidewalk and chain link fence will be placed along the entire length including the wall section to remain. There are tapered high curbs at each end of the wall along with new sidewalks which meet existing curbs and sidewalks. Fences and various small walls that border private properties will be maintained or modified and a new variable depth curbs/retaining walls added adjacent to these private walls. The project includes the removal of trees, trimming of other overhanging trees, and minor grade restoration at the south end. Utility poles and a fire hydrant will be relocated by their owners prior to construction.

Your bid shall be based upon a Notice to Proceed to be issued in the 3rd Quarter of 2027.

All questions regarding this contract shall be submitted via email prior to 4:00 pm on Friday, July 24, 2026, to Daniel Wong at dwong@nassaucountyny.gov.

No interpretation of the meaning of the Drawings, Specifications or other Contract Documents will be made to any Bidder orally. Prospective bidders must request in writing such interpretation from the Commissioner and such interpretation will be given in writing in the form of written addenda, to all prospective bidders, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, Item G.
This Contract will be subject to Nassau County Local Laws No. 14-2002, "Participation by Minority Group Members and Women in Nassau County Contracts," which requires submission of a Utilization plan prior to the award of a County contract, No. 2-2016, "Participation of Service-Disabled Veterans in County Contracts," and No. 9-2002, as amended by No. 3-2015, which require that firms entering into contracts with Nassau County must participate in registered and approved apprenticeship training programs unless such requirement are supplanted by requirements specified in the bidding instructions. **At the time of bid submission, the Contractor shall submit, as part of its bid, documents in compliance with Title 51 of the Nassau County Miscellaneous Laws demonstrating participation in approved apprenticeship training programs that are appropriate for the type and scope of work to be performed pursuant to the Contract. Such apprenticeship training programs appropriate for the scope of this Contract shall include, but are not limited to the following: Laborers, Electricians, Operating Engineers, or any other trade appropriate for the type of work proposed. The apprenticeship training programs shall be registered with, and approved by, the New York State Commissioner of Labor in accordance with Article 23 of the New York State Labor Law. Note that if the Contractor does not comply with these requirements, the Commissioner may declare the Contractor's bid proposal non-responsive and award the Contract to the next lowest responsible Bidder.**

Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid Bond, Proposal, Form of Agreement, Specifications and the Plans, herein called the "Contract Documents", may be examined at the **Permit Office** of the Department of Public Works, first floor, 1194 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, Nassau County, New York, 11590-2723, Phone No. (516) 571-6840, from **9:00 AM on Friday, July 10, 2026 until 3:45 PM on Friday, August 7, 2026 (closed from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM and on County Holidays)**. **Copies of the Bid Contract Documents for use in bidding will be available for purchase at the Permit Office. Furthermore, a downloadable set of the technical specifications (NOT to be used for bidding) can be found on the County solicitation board at no charge for all registered users at: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=533:226. To access these documents, click on the "Vendor Portal" link. Once you are in the Vendor Portal, click on "Nassau County Procurement," and, under "Formal Solicitation," access and download the Request for Bid Contract documents.**

In order to submit a bid, a non-refundable fee of **$300.00** by check or money order, payable to the Nassau County Treasurer, **will be required for each set of Bid Contract Documents purchased from the Permit Office**. Prospective bidders requesting Contract Documents **by mail** must remit an additional, non-refundable, fee of $30.00 per set to cover handling and first-class mailing.
ONLY BID CONTRACT DOCUMENTS PURCHASED FROM THE PERMIT OFFICE IN THIS MANNER WILL BE ACCEPTED/CONSIDERED.

Vendors doing business with Nassau County, including those responding to this solicitation, must register with the County. The Nassau County Bid Solicitation Boards are open to all registered vendors. Vendors that have not registered are able to view open solicitation opportunities, but they are not able to download solicitation documents or submit bids or proposals.

To complete the registration process, please click on the New Vendor registration link: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=CEVM:VREG

SUBCONTRACTOR LISTS - In accordance with GML § 101, for projects (1) to which a project labor agreement applies, (Labor Law Section 222) and, additionally, (2) on a public work contract for which separate specifications have not been prepared, each Bidder shall submit with its bid a separate sealed list on the forms provided with the proposal forms that names each subcontractor (for the enumerated work, if applicable) that the Bidder intends to use to perform work on the contract. Notwithstanding the forgoing, all subcontractors must be approved by the Commissioner in writing prior to such subcontractor's performance of any work.

MWBE UTILIZATION PLAN – In accordance with Title 53, Nassau County Local Law No.14-2002, all bidders shall submit a MWBE Utilization Plan with their bid.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

Effective immediately, no Contractor may submit a bid for public work in New York State unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Bids received from unregistered Contractors shall be deemed non-responsive. Additionally, no Subcontractor may commence work on a public work project unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Requests for approval of unregistered Subcontractors will be denied. Further information is available at Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry Landing | Department of Labor.

Security for Bid as set forth herein must be presented with the Bid.

"FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SECURITY WILL RENDER THE BIDDER NON-RESPONSIVE AND THE BID WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, OPENED OR READ ALOUD. IN ADDITION, FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING MAY RENDER THE BIDDER NON- RESPONSIVE".

All Vendors shall submit a Completed Appendix C: Offeror's Affirmation of Understanding of and Agreement Pursuant to State Finance law § 139-j(3) and § 139-j(6)(b).

Dated at Mineola, LI
July 8, 2026
By Order of County Executive, Bruce A. Blakeman
By Michael C. Pulitzer, Clerk of the Legislature

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL

Manager, Boutique Architecture for Chanel, Inc. (NY, NY).Coordinate all aspects of architectural projects w/ the U.S. corporate teams & the local boutique team. Min. Req: Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Construction, or a related field + 5 yrs of exp in architectural practice in retail or commercial projects. 30% domestic travel reqd to visit project sites for various projects. Sal : $110,490 - 130,000.yr. Send resumes to Resumes@chanel.com. Ref. job code "MBA2026". Chanel, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EOE M/F/D/V

Architecture: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP has openings in NYC for Senior Designers to integrate interdisciplinary criteria to effectively move forward the design of distinct portions of large projects or entire architectural projects of a small scale. Master's in Architecture, Architectural Design, or related field & 3 years of experience. Salary range: $90,000 to $110,000. Email resume, cover letter, and portfolio to the attention of HR Coordinator at recruiting@som.com; subject line: NYC-SD-0626. EOE

TECH CAREERS

FinTech Systems Analyst (NY, NY): Analyze & support FinTech digital products & client-facing systms to ensure functionality, performance & alignment w/ bus. reqmts. Reqs: Bach deg in Comp Sci, S/ware Engg or rel & 1 yr exp in systms analysis, s/ware testing or rel IT role. Salary: $120k - $120k. Resumes to Finsight Group, Inc: careers@finsight.com

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EMPLOYMENT

TECH CAREERS

Cloud Site Reliability Engineer, PDT Partners, LLC, New York, New York. Monitor & optimize system reliability metrics like availability, latency, & error rates w/ tools like Prometheus, Grafana, BigPanda, & Icinga; Design & optimize altering systems based on SLOs & SLIs, setting technical direction & appropriate thresholds to balance signal to noise; Debugging production issues across distributed systems using observability tools; Ownership of implementation & engineering of Backups methodology in AWS & how to implement backups; Ownership of datasets in internal tooling to manage datasets at PDT; Designing, implementing & delivering scalable & performant systems involving equal parts engineering & operations on projects both small and large, working w/ a mix of open-source & proprietary tools; Facilitating the conception & implementing of new automation from CI/CD pipelines to production metrics to other automation for the platform infrastructure; Collaborating closely w/ peer engineers & researchers to build high-quality, efficient & reliable systems, including adapting to change & diving into new domains to deeply understand stakeholder needs; Managing capacity & benchmark optimization; including challenging problems for workloads critical to research & trading; Running our platform systems day-to-day, striving to make light through automation & quality work. PDT Partners requires candidates to possess a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, or a related field. Additionally, PDT Partners requires candidates to possess a minimum of 3 years of exp in each of the following: (i) programming in python & golang; (ii) Terraform, Saltstack, & Packer; (iii) supporting AWS cloud infrastructure, EC2, Lambda, Bedrock, ASG, Spot, DynamoDb; (iv) Prometheus, Grafana, Alertmanager; (v) working w/ Nix in production; (vi) supporting RHEL in a production environment; (vii) supporting Kubernetes in a production environment; & (viii) supporting Slurm in a production environment. Exp may be gained concurrently. Salary range is: $190,000 - $200,000 per year. Please send resume to TACT-People-Resumes@pdtpartners.com

Technology Implementation Specialist (Flushing, NY). Program, install, configure, deploy payment tech solutions incl standalone terminals, mobile payment systems, online gateways & point-of-sale (POS) platforms. Coordinate system setup, deployment, & configuration; ensure implementations are w/in budget & on-time. Provide tech support rltd to system functionality & performance. Perform troubleshooting, QA testing & validation of new terminals & devices. Monitor system usage & user portfolio acct activity. Maintain HW & device inventory. Prepare monthly purchase plans for terminals & rltd supplies to support deployment needs. Support sales personnel by assisting w/ tech requests & advising on after-sales policies. Assist clients w/ system-rltd acct issues incl funding inquiries, chargebacks & tech aspects of PCI compliance. Req: Bach. Deg in CS, Tech Mgmt, IT, closely rlted or foreign equiv. Resumes to: Universal Processing, LLC, recruitment@letsgoup.com. Salary: $79,331-$85,000/yr.

Software Engr, Flatiron Health, Inc., NY, NY. Position req Bachelor's and allows 100% telecommuting from anywhere within the U.S. The expected annual salary range for this position based on the primary location for this position of New York, NY is $150,690 - $194,400. The annual pay range for this position is based on the preferred primary location of the role which is listed above. If you are applying to this role at a location that is not the preferred primary location, keep in mind the salary range will vary and may fall outside of what is listed. Base pay offered may vary depending on job-related knowledge, skills, and exp. An annual bonus and equity may be provided as part of the compensation package, in addition to a full range of medical, financial, and/or other benefits, depending on the position offered. Apply at https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/opp-center/jobs/7979296 (Job ID: IM0016).

SOFTWARE ENGINEER (multiple openings) at MPG Operations LLC in New York, NY will dsgn and implmt user-facing tools to sppt cmpnstn-rltd biz prcses. Sal: $189,592.00-$250,000/yr. Reqs a Bach deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engg or a rltd tech field, & 5 yrs in a prgrly respbl sftw dvlpmt, or rltd, ocup. Must include 5 yrs w/ each of the following: Dsgn sys arch and bld full-stack aplns; Aply cncps of data sensitivity, asynchronous prgmg, and memory mgmt; APIs, C# .NET, and Angular frmwrks; Kendo UI; AWS servs, incl EC2, Code Pipeline, & RDS; Implmt CI/CD using tools, incl TeamCity, Octopus, & PowerShell scripting; & RDBMS platforms. To apply please send resume to recruiting@mlp.com & ref job code 0822 when applying.

Senior Data Scientist sought by LexisNexis Risk Solutions FL Inc in New York, NY to review suspicious activity & complex fraud cases to help identify/resolve fraud risk trends/issues. Clearly/thoroughly document investigation findings/conclusions. Minimum of Master's degree or foreign equivalent in Data Science, Computer Science, Business Analytics, Information Systems, or rltd + 3 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occupations required. Employee reports to LexisNexis Risk Solutions FL Inc office in New York, NY but may telecommute from any location within US. Interested candidates should send email to ResumesICT@RELX.com. Ref job code: R115156 ($156,409.90 to $184,600/yr + standard corporate benefits)

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Gauff bests Pegula to reach 1st Wimby semis

By KEN MAGUIRE

LONDON — There's no panic in Coco Gauff.

Down a set after untimely double-faults, Gauff rallied past Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 on Tuesday to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time.

The two-time major champion raised her arms in the air after Pegula sent a weak backhand into the net on the first match point in an all-American quarterfinal on Centre Court.

"I've been going three sets almost every match. I feel like when you have that faith in yourself as a competitor, when the match goes a distance, you know when you lose one set, you're not panicking," Gauff said in an on-court interview.

With the victory, the 22-year-old Gauff became the youngest player to reach the semifinals at all four Grand Slams since Maria Sharapova, who completed the feat at the 2007 French Open, the women's professional tennis tour said.

Gauff will face 10th-seeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic for a spot in Saturday's final. Muchova, the 2023 French Open runner-up, eliminated Naomi Osaka 7-6 (4), 6-4 on No. 1 Court.

In Gauff's six previous appearances at the All England Club, she had never gotten past the fourth round. But perhaps experience at the grass-court major is starting to pay off.

"I think after seven years playing this tournament it's finally the first time I can walk on Centre Court and I didn't feel nervous," she said. "So I don't know if I'm becoming a vet."

The "vet" was undone by early double-faults, though, putting herself in a hole to start the match. She led 40-0 right away but lost the next five points — including two on double-faults — to go down 1-0. After breaking Pegula in the sixth game, Gauff was immediately broken to love with two more double-faults.

MADE IT! Coco Gauff celebrates making the Wimbledon semifinals with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Jessica Pegula on Tuesday. Getty Images

Gauff called the last two sets "really great tennis."

"Jess' ball is so flat and low. So I think I just needed to address that ... be in there in the rallies and just play the tennis that I wanted to play. And I think I started to land more first serves in the court," said Gauff, who cranked up one serve to 126 mph in the third game of the second set. "So I think that also helped and just trusting my shots."

Under a sunny sky, the early afternoon matches started with the temperature at 84 degrees and expected to rise to 88.

Sinner, who lost in the second round at the French Open amid a heat wave in Paris, used an ice towel around his neck on changeovers.

Early in her match, Gauff asked the chair umpire: "Do you guys have an ice pack?" The American dabbed what appeared to be a blue ice pack to her cheeks and top of her thighs. — *AP*

Djokovic takes over 5 hours to win

By ANDREW DAMPF

LONDON — Novak Djokovic was pushed to play more than five hours by Felix Auger-Aliassime before the seven-time Wimbledon champion prevailed 7-6 (10), 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4) on Tuesday to set up a semifinal against defending champion Jannik Sinner.

When a forehand from Auger-Aliassime sailed wide after a long rally to give Djokovic a 9-4 lead in the final-set tiebreaker, both players leaned on their rackets in exhaustion. Djokovic, while he was leaning over, still found energy to encourage the crowd to cheer louder, waving his racket for more noise.

Then on his first match point, a big forehand from Djokovic led to another error from his 25-year-old Canadian opponent to end it after 5 hours, 15 minutes — and just before the All England Club's 11 p.m. curfew took effect.

To celebrate, Djokovic raised his arms high and wide and took in the applause as he walked to the net to shake hands with Auger-Aliassime. Then Djokovic performed a little elbows-to-knees dance. He often mentions that his daughter tries to teach him moves.

"These," Djokovic said, "are the kind of moments that I still play tennis for."

Djokovic continues to break records as he chases a 25th Grand Slam title. He's reached a record-setting eighth consecutive Wimbledon final four — moving him one ahead of Roger Federer for most consecutive men's singles semifinal appearances at the grass-court tournament.

Sinner spent less than half the amount of time on court as Djokovic did when he beat Jan-Lennard Struff 7-5, 7-6 (4), 6-3 much earlier in the day on No. 1 Court.

Sinner beat Djokovic in straight sets in last year's Wimbledon semifinals; and Djokovic outlasted the Italian over five sets in the last four of this year's Australian Open.

"I wish it was finals, so I don't need to worry about how the body will feel tomorrow," Djokovic said.

"I was telling the kids to go to sleep after the fourth (set) but they didn't want to listen. I'm glad they stayed because it was honestly one of the best matches I was part of on this court in my career." — *AP*

Yonkers for Wednesday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Chillin Bythe Pool	(DDube)	4-7-8	20-1
2	Vel Im All Fire	(JBongiorno)	1-7-6	2-1
3	Maybemabel	(JStratton)	1-2-5	1-1
4	TrgryenEmpress	(ASegelmn)	8-1-1	20-1
5	Fortunada	(JMarohn)	7-3-2	20-1
6	Eveninstarzrapsdy	(Brennn)	2-1-6	8-1
7	Racin For Royalty	(CKelly)	7-1-5	15-1
8	Kissin Joe	(BHolland)	2-5-5	12-1

SECOND: Mile trot; $19,000; cond

1	Peteza	(JBongiorno)	2-1-1	7-5
2	Zuzu Zoom	(JStratton)	2-1-6	7-2
3	Chant	(GBrennan)	3-3-7	6-1
4	Long Hill	(CKelly)	8-3-7	10-1
5	Goya	(BHolland)	3-2-1	4-1
6	Raucous	(PLachance)	4-5-2	20-1
7	ShadyMpleBecky	(Segelmn)	6-7-6	20-1
8	Ajax Blue Chip	(DDube)	3-7-3	20-1

THIRD: Mile pace; $15,000; claiming

1	Aladdin	(PLachance)	1-7-3	2-1
2	Rose Run Astro	(JBongiorno)	2-6-1	5-2
3	Full Support	(BHolland)	1-5-2	7-2
4	Deedenuto A	(ASiegelman)	7-3-6	20-1
5	Mr Profeta	(GBrennan)	3-7-6	8-1
6	Brower	(JStratton)	3-8-7	15-1
7	I'm Some Graduate	(CKelly)	4-2-3	6-1
8	Social Theories	(SSmith)	1-5-7	20-1

FOURTH: Mile pace; $19,000; cond

1	OddsOnCommndeer	(Strttn)	3-3-5	9-2
2	Brooklyn Bombshell	(CKelly)	5-4-4	20-1
3	Rich Eileen	(BHolland)	2-2-4	6-1
4	Doral Delight	(JMarohn)	5-2-2	10-1
5	Wave Dancer	(JBongiorno)	3-6-6	4-1
6	Napalm	(GBrennan)	2-3-8	3-2
7	ShadowDelight	(Siegelman)	4-8-2	15-1
8	SilenceIsGolden	(PLachance)	2-3-1	8-1

FIFTH: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Maximus Red A	(JStratton)	4-3-4	5-1
2	Curly James A	(CKelly)	1-5-2	8-5
3	Mach N Cheese	(JMarohn)	2-5-2	9-2
4	GreatSomewhere	(Lachnce)	6-3-4	10-1
5	PinkFloydHanover	(GBrennn)	4-4-2	6-1
6	Italian Lad N	(JBongiorno)	2-6-2	5-1
7	Aussie Hanover	(BHolland)	6-2-5	20-1
8	Artist Best	(DDube)	1-3-4	20-1

SIXTH: Mile trot; $21,000; cond

1	Overalls	(JStratton)	2-3-2	7-2
2	Lauren's Chapter	(NKarna)	1-3-3	2-1
3	Berry Good News	(Brennan)	4-4-2	6-1
4	D'wood	(CKelly)	4-2-4	9-2
5	BeersnsunshineDeo	(SSmith)	5-2-6	20-1
6	Je Suis Cash S	(JBongiorno)	8-X-1	8-1
7	AviatrixBlueChip	(PLachnce)	4-1-3	8-1
8	Boom Chica Boom	(JMarohn)	4-3-4	20-1

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Over The Horizon	(BHolland)	1-2-1	6-5
2	Captain Jenna	(ASiegelman)	7-8-3	12-1
3	Show Respect	(JStratton)	5-8-8	15-1
4	Lovers Trouble	(JBongiorno)	8-2-3	7-2
5	Alabamajamma	(CKelly)	2-2-4	3-1
6	CoalfordoneofusGb	(JMarhn)	2-1-5	20-1
7	WellThat'sMarky	(VGinsbrg)	5-2-8	20-1
8	Onyx Bovino	(GBrennan)	4-5-4	20-1

EIGHTH: Mile pace; $24,000; cond

1	Bronx Mixer	(DDube)	5-4-1	5-1
2	Stepabovetherest	(Stratton)	6-7-4	20-1
3	AnnaLovesBanans	(VGnsbrg)	4-6-6	15-1
4	Jordanna Hanover	(Holland)	7-5-3	7-2
5	Tall Dark Tequila	(CKelly)	3-2-1	9-5
6	Sammy JoHanover	(Marohn)	1-5-8	6-1
7	Youllfindout	(GBrennan)	7-4-1	8-1
8	Threecurtaincalls	(JBongirn)	1-3-5	8-1

NINTH: Mile trot; $24,000; cond

1	Starfish	(JBongiorno)	1-1-2	9-2
2	Halfadozen	(DDube)	2-2-5	3-1
3	Credit To Frank	(GBrennan)	6-5-3	8-1
4	Wish List	(JMarohn)	3-7-1	6-1
5	Taipan As	(CKelly)	2-3-1	8-5
6	Marin County	(ASiegelman)	4-4-6	20-1
7	Bizzy Brenda	(SSmith)	6-1-2	20-1
8	Hl Olmaya	(HLandy)	8-5-4	20-1

TENTH: Mile pace; $21,000; cond

1	Crystal Coast	(DDube)	2-3-2	4-1
2	Send It Down Slim	(Holland)	4-2-3	2-1
3	Swift Sarabi	(ASiegelman)	7-7-5	20-1
4	Papi's Opinion	(SSmith)	2-4-7	10-1
5	Call Me Angelita	(GBrennan)	4-3-6	7-2
6	Imagine Heaven	(CKelly)	8-3-3	7-2
7	Gabbys Wish	(JMarohn)	3-5-2	20-1
8	Lady Oakley	(JStratton)	1-4-5	20-1

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	53	36	.596	—	—	7-3	W-1	32-13	21-23
Yankees	50	41	.549	4	+4	2-8	L-1	23-20	27-21
Toronto	43	49	.467	11½	3½	4-6	W-1	24-25	19-24
Boston	41	48	.461	12	4	8-2	W-4	17-27	24-21
Baltimore	42	50	.457	12½	4½	4-6	L-2	24-24	18-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	47	43	.522	—	—	5-5	L-1	28-15	19-28
Cleveland	47	45	.511	1	+½	5-5	L-3	24-22	23-23
Minnesota	45	47	.489	3	1½	7-3	W-3	23-23	22-24
Detroit	41	50	.451	6½	5	7-3	W-3	24-21	17-29
Kansas City	38	54	.413	10	8½	4-6	W-3	21-26	17-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	47	45	.511	—	—	6-4	L-1	27-20	20-25
Texas	46	45	.505	½	—	7-3	W-1	21-20	25-25
Houston	46	48	.489	2	1½	6-4	W-1	23-24	23-24
Athletics	41	50	.451	5½	5	2-8	L-4	19-28	22-22
Los Angeles	36	56	.391	11	10½	2-8	L-7	21-25	15-31

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

Tampa Bay 6, **Yankees** 4
Kansas City 16, **Mets** 12
Cubs 5, Baltimore 2
Detroit 6, Athletics 2
Houston 6, Washington 3
Minnesota 3, Cleveland 1
Miami 6, Seattle 5, 10 inn.
Boston 8, White Sox 1
Texas 8, L.A. Angels 3
Toronto 9, San Francisco 3

Wednesday

Yankees at Tampa Bay, 6:40
Kansas City at **Mets**, 7:10
Toronto at San Francisco, 3:45
Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35
Athletics at Detroit, 6:40
Seattle at Miami, 6:40
Houston at Washington, 6:45
Boston at White Sox, 7:40
Cleveland at Minnesota, 7:40
L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	52	38	.578	—	—	3-7	L-3	27-18	25-20
Philadelphia	51	41	.554	2	+1	5-5	W-1	25-21	26-20
Miami	50	42	.543	3	—	7-3	W-4	29-17	21-25
Washington	47	46	.505	6½	3½	6-4	L-1	19-28	28-18
Mets	38	54	.413	15	12	4-6	L-1	19-25	19-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	58	33	.637	—	—	8-2	W-4	29-18	29-15
Chicago	51	40	.560	7	+1½	7-3	W-2	27-19	24-21
St. Louis	47	43	.522	10½	2	5-5	L-4	23-24	24-19
Pittsburgh	47	45	.511	11½	3	6-4	W-3	24-22	23-23
Cincinnati	41	49	.456	16½	8	3-7	L-1	20-25	21-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	60	33	.645	—	—	7-3	L-1	30-16	30-17
Arizona	45	46	.495	14	4½	4-6	L-1	27-20	18-26
San Diego	45	46	.495	14	4½	2-8	W-1	24-22	21-24
San Francisco	38	53	.418	21	11½	5-5	L-1	19-23	19-30
Colorado	38	55	.409	22	12½	5-5	W-1	22-25	16-30

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

Kansas City 16, **Mets** 12
Milwaukee 4, St. Louis 3, 1st gm.
Pittsburgh 12, Atlanta 4
Cubs 5, Baltimore 2
Houston 6, Washington 3
Miami 6, Seattle 5, 10 inn.
Colorado 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 1
Milwaukee 10, St. Louis 2, 2nd gm.
San Diego 4, Arizona 1
Toronto 9, San Francisco 3

Wednesday

Kansas City at **Mets**, 7:10
Toronto at San Francisco, 3:45
Cubs at Baltimore, 6:35
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Seattle at Miami, 6:40
Houston at Washington, 6:45
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7:10
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 7:45
Arizona at San Diego, 10:10
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 34

2	6	5	4	3	9	7	8	1
7	3	4	8	6	1	5	2	9
8	9	1	2	7	5	3	6	4
1	5	9	3	8	6	4	7	2
4	8	3	7	9	2	6	1	5
6	7	2	5	1	4	9	3	8
9	4	7	1	2	3	8	5	6
5	2	8	6	4	7	1	9	3
3	1	6	9	5	8	2	4	7

Solution to Very Easy #7,333

8	4	6	9	1	7	3	2	5
1	2	7	5	3	4	6	8	9
3	5	9	2	6	8	1	4	7
6	1	4	3	7	5	8	9	2
9	3	5	8	2	6	7	1	4
2	7	8	4	9	1	5	6	3
4	6	2	7	8	3	9	5	1
5	8	3	1	4	9	2	7	6
7	9	1	6	5	2	4	3	8

Solution to Difficult #7,123

Rays 6, Yankees 4

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.231
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.261
Rice dh	4	1	3	3	0	0	.273
Rosario 3b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.243
McMahon ph-3b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.210
Volpe ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Bellinger lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.248
Caballero ss-3b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.245
Chisholm 2b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.224
Schuemann rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.227
Domínguez ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.214
Sánchez c	3	0	2	1	0	0	.267
Totals	**36**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**0**	**17**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	1	2	2	0	0	.319
Aranda 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.280
Caminero 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.281
Mullins cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.208
Simpson lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Mesa rf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.188
Walls ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.226
Palacios 2b	2	2	2	1	0	0	.246
Williamson ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Feducia c	2	1	1	2	1	0	.232
Totals	**32**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**6**	

Yankees							**003**	**000**	**100**	**— 4 11 0**
Tampa Bay							**020**	**400**	**00x**	**— 6 8 1**

E: Booser (1). **LOB:** New York 6, Tampa Bay 5. **2B:** Grisham (13), Palacios (7). **HR:** Rice (26), off Seymour; Mesa (4), off Warren; Feducia (2), off Warren; Díaz (13), off Warren. **RBIs:** Rice 3 (60), Sánchez (4), Mesa (10), Díaz 2 (55), Palacios (26), Feducia 2 (11). **SF:** Sánchez. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 3 (Grisham, Goldschmidt, Caballero); Tampa Bay 1 (Aranda). **RISP:** New York 1 for 5; Tampa Bay 2 for 3.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Warren, L, 7-4	4.0	7	6	6	2	3	75	4.15
Hill	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	16	3.97
Blackburn	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	20	2.22
Headrick	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	1.42

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seymour, W, 6-1	5.1	5	3	3	0	12	94	4.11
Kelly, H, 19	1.0	4	1	1	0	1	14	2.57
Booser, H, 3	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	7	1.35
Cleavinger, H, 15	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	3.86
Baker, S, 24-27	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	1.78

T: 2:38. **A:** 18,115 (25,025).

Tigers 6, Athletics 2

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gelof lf	5	0	1	0	0	4	.281
Kurtz 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.271
Langeliers c	3	0	1	1	1	2	.264
Heim dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.243
Wilson ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Thomas rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.222
Butler ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Kuroda-Grauer 2b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.462
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.227
Bolte cf	3	2	1	1	0	0	.292
Totals	**34**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**12**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle ss-3b	4	1	2	1	1	1	.287
Keith 3b	2	1	1	2	1	0	.252
Lee ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Greene lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.289
Dingler c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.262
Carpenter dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.231
McKinstry 2b-ss	3	1	2	0	1	0	.203
Torkelson 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.214
Outman cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.157
Malgeri ph-rf	1	1	1	1	1	0	.313
Vierling rf-cf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.203
Totals	**32**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**4**	**11**	

Athletics							**001**	**000**	**100**	**— 2 7 1**
Detroit							**200**	**004**	**00x**	**— 6 8 1**

E: Bolte (4), Lee (3). **LOB:** Athletics 9, Detroit 7. **2B:** Kuroda-Grauer (3), Malgeri (1), Vierling (12). **HR:** Bolte (3), off Skubal; Keith (7), off Ginn. **RBIs:** Bolte (15), Langeliers (45), Keith 2 (21), Malgeri (4), Vierling 2 (30), McGonigle (32). **CS:** Kuroda-Grauer (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 6 (Muncy 2, Bolte, Wilson 2, Heim); Detroit 3 (McGonigle, Vierling, Dingler). **RISP:** Athletics 1 for 6; Detroit 3 for 10.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ginn, L, 7-5	4.0	2	2	2	2	4	61	3.10
Lopez	3.0	5	4	4	1	4	63	7.04
Alvarado	1.0	1	0	0	1	3	23	5.33

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal, W, 5-4	5.0	5	1	1	2	9	96	3.06
Finnegan, H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.18
Anderson	1.0	1	1	0	0	2	29	4.28
Waguespack	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	23	1.54

T: 2:46. **A:** 28,736 (41,083).

Royals 16, Mets 12

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	5	0	1	1	2	2	.247
Witt ss	6	1	1	2	1	1	.290
Thomas cf	4	1	3	4	2	1	.232
Perez dh	5	1	2	2	1	2	.211
Caglianone 1b	6	1	1	0	0	3	.258
Loftin 3b	5	2	3	2	0	1	.247
Collins lf	3	2	1	1	3	0	.239
Massey 2b	4	4	2	2	2	1	.262
Tolbert rf	6	4	5	2	0	0	.396
Totals	**44**	**16**	**19**	**16**	**11**	**11**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf	4	4	4	3	1	0	.276
Soto lf	5	1	1	3	0	1	.299
Bichette 3b	5	1	1	0	0	0	.259
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.210
Benge rf	3	2	2	1	2	1	.262
Polanco dh	4	1	1	1	1	1	.183
Young 1b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.231
Baty 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.218
Torrens c	5	2	1	0	0	0	.218
Totals	**39**	**12**	**13**	**9**	**5**	**4**	

Kansas City							**020**	**250**	**700**	**— 16 19 3**
New York							**320**	**400**	**210**	**— 12 13 0**

E: Lugo (1), Loftin (7), Caglianone (4). **LOB:** Kansas City 13, New York 6. **2B:** Thomas 2 (13), Caglianone (13), Collins (16), Massey (15), Loftin 2 (14), Perez (13), Baty (13), Polanco (4). **HR:** Tolbert (2), off Senga; Loftin (4), off Seelinger; Ewing (6), off Lugo; Soto (20), off Lugo; Polanco (1), off Lugo. **RBIs:** Tolbert 2 (5), Thomas 4 (29), Collins (26), Massey 2 (31), Witt 2 (38), Perez 2 (35), Loftin 2 (29), Jensen (48), Ewing 3 (23), Soto 3 (49), Polanco (3), Baty (28), Benge (36). **SB:** Benge (12), Tolbert (10), Witt (30), Ewing (9). **CS:** Witt (5), Ewing (6). **SF:** Baty. **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 9 (Witt 2, Caglianone 3, Perez 3, Massey); New York 4 (Polanco 2, Torrens, Bichette). **RISP:** Kansas City 9 for 23; New York 5 for 11.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo	4.1	9	9	6	2	4	94	4.56
Lynch	1.1	0	0	0	1	0	18	2.41
Schreiber	0.2	2	2	2	1	0	24	3.53
Way, W, 1-0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.06
Strahm	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	24	5.46
Erceg	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5.19

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	14	5.35
Senga	3.0	5	4	4	4	4	61	8.92
Warren	0.0	4	5	5	1	0	26	4.63
Brazobán, BS, 0-3	2.0	3	0	0	2	2	37	2.86
Seelinger, L, 0-1	2.0	5	7	7	4	2	52	31.50
Minter	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	0.53

T: 3:30. **A:** 32,734 (42,136).

Astros 6, Nationals 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	1	1	1	0	1	.234
Shewmake 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Y.Alvarez dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.313
Paredes 3b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.250
Walker 1b	2	2	1	0	1	0	.242
Smith rf	3	0	0	0	2	0	.223
Dezenzo lf	2	2	0	0	2	1	.196
Trammell lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Matthews cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.199
Allen ss	2	0	1	3	1	1	.241
Vázquez c	3	0	1	2	0	1	.220
Totals	**30**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**7**	**8**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	2	2	1	1	1	.270
García 1b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.285
Chaparro ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.157
Mead 3b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.243
Abrams dh	2	0	1	1	2	0	.276
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Crews ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Lile lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.250
Nuñez ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.247
Vivas 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Young cf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.223
Tena ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	.239
Totals	**36**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**4**	**10**	

Houston							**010**	**301**	**010**	**— 6 6 1**
Washington							**101**	**000**	**001**	**— 3 11 0**

E: Allen (2). **LOB:** Houston 8, Washington 11. **2B:** Mead (13). **HR:** Altuve (10), off Cornelio; Wood (25), off Imai; Tena (5), off Santa. **RBIs:** Allen 3 (9), Vázquez 2 (21), Altuve (26), Wood (61), Abrams (65), Tena (19). **SB:** Allen (2), Matthews (3), Dezenzo (1), Vázquez (1). **CS:** Nuñez (4). **SF:** Allen, Vázquez, Abrams. **RISP:** Houston 3 for 11; Washington 0 for 7.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imai	3.2	4	2	2	3	3	84	6.06
Okert, W, 2-1	1.1	1	0	0	0	3	17	2.42
De Los Santos, H, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	4.54
King, H, 12	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	9	2.02
Abreu	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	9	5.70
Santa	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	19	1.35
Hader, S, 10-10	0.1	1	0	0	1	1	13	0.59

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
A.Alvarez, L, 2-2	5.2	4	5	5	5	3	97	3.64
Lawrence	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	7	7.67
Krook	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	23	14.54
Cornelio	1.1	1	1	1	0	3	20	7.82
Palmquist	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	7.11

T: 3:09. **A:** 20,424 (41,376).

Brewers 4, Cardinals 3, 1st Gm.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	5	0	3	2	0	0	.247
Chourio lf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.265
Contreras c	4	0	0	0	1	0	.288
Bauers 1b	3	1	2	0	0	0	.270
Vaughn ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.326
Mitchell cf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.273
Frelick rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Pratt ss	2	2	0	0	2	1	.196
Ortiz 3b	4	1	3	1	0	0	.220
Totals	**36**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**4**	**5**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.266
Herrera dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.255
Burleson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.277
Walker rf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.290
Nootbaar lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.272
Winn pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.214
Church cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Fermín 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.268
Crooks c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.158
Velázquez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Pagés c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Totals	**32**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**1**	**13**	

Milwaukee							**002**	**001**	**100**	**— 4 10 0**
St. Louis							**201**	**000**	**000**	**— 3 5 0**

LOB: Milwaukee 9, St. Louis 4. **2B:** Yelich 2 (12), Ortiz (6), Bauers 2 (15), Nootbaar (6). **HR:** Walker (21), off Misiorowski; Herrera (11), off Misiorowski. **RBIs:** Ortiz (21), Yelich 2 (30), Mitchell (43), Walker 2 (69), Herrera (40). **SB:** Turang (14). **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 7 (Contreras 3, Vaughn 2, Pratt, Frelick); St. Louis 2 (Burleson, Torres). **RISP:** Milwaukee 4 for 16; St. Louis 1 for 4. **DP:** St. Louis 1 (Torres, Burleson).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Misiorowski, W, 10-4	7.0	3	3	3	0	11	103	1.62
Ashby, H, 6	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	18	3.19
Uribe, S, 6-8	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	19	2.70

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Svanson	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	6.52
Zimmermann	5.0	6	3	3	1	2	72	5.40
Stanek, L, 2-2	0.0	1	1	1	1	0	6	4.93
Romero	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	16	3.60
Bruihl	2.0	1	0	0	1	1	30	3.53

T: 2:38. **A:** 24,422 (44,494).

Pirates 12, Braves 4

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.308
Albies 2b	3	0	1	1	0	1	.273
Farmer 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Olson 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.273
Baldwin c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.253
Bart c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.136
Dubón lf	3	0	2	1	0	1	.274
Azócar lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.353
Smith dh	4	1	0	0	0	0	.267
Riley 3b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.212
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.226
Jarvis ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.211
Totals	**36**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**1**	**6**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf-lf	4	2	1	0	0	0	.305
Lowe dh	5	2	3	1	0	1	.247
Reynolds lf	1	2	0	0	3	0	.281
Brannigan ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Valdez rf	3	2	1	0	2	1	.311
O'Hearn 1b	5	3	4	10	0	0	.293
Cook pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.161
Gonzales 3b-2b	5	0	2	1	0	0	.314
Callihan 2b-lf-1b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.261
Triolo ss	4	0	1	0	1	0	.240
Davis c	4	0	0	0	1	1	.155
Totals	**37**	**12**	**14**	**12**	**7**	**4**	

Atlanta							**101**	**000**	**002**	**— 4 11 0**
Pittsburgh							**403**	**003**	**11x**	**— 12 14 0**

LOB: Atlanta 6, Pittsburgh 9. **2B:** Olson (24), Harris (15), Dubón (19), Riley (13). **HR:** O'Hearn 2 (15), off Waldrep; O'Hearn (16), off Thomas. **RBIs:** Dubón (49), Albies (50), Yastrzemski 2 (24), O'Hearn 10 (61), Lowe (64), Gonzales (41). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 3 (Smith, Riley, Harris); Pittsburgh 4 (Mangum, Brannigan, Gonzales 2). **RISP:** Atlanta 3 for 9; Pittsburgh 6 for 17. **DP:** Atlanta 1 (Jarvis, Farmer, Olson); Pittsburgh 2 (Callihan, Triolo, O'Hearn; O'Hearn, Triolo).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Waldrep, L, 0-1	3.1	6	7	7	5	2	84	8.44
Thomas	3.2	5	4	4	1	2	60	9.82
Mateo	1.0	3	1	1	1	0	20	9.00

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes, W, 7-8	6.0	8	2	2	1	4	95	3.58
Mlodzinski	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	24	3.24
Stratton	1.0	3	2	2	0	0	19	9.00

T: 2:37. **A:** 20,281 (38,753).

Brewers 10, Cardinals 2, 2nd Gm.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	5	0	0	1	0	2	.241
Lara cf-rf	4	1	1	2	1	0	.250
Turang 2b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.267
Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.324
Bauers lf-rf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.268
Mitchell pr-cf	1	1	0	0	0	0	.272
Sánchez c	3	2	1	2	2	1	.221
Frelick rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Chourio ph-lf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.286
Pratt ss	4	2	2	2	1	0	.217
Ortiz 3b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.224
Totals	**38**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**7**	**6**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Pagés 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Herrera c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.254
Crooks c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.158
Walker rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.292
Velázquez dh-lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.269
Burleson 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Torres p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211

Phillies 4, Reds 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	5	1	1	1	0	1	.241
Schwarber dh	4	1	2	2	0	1	.255
Harper 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Bohm 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.222
Sosa lf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.218
Marsh lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.305
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Stott 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Hill rf	3	1	2	0	1	1	.250
Crawford cf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.258
Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.270
Stewart 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.254
Bleday lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Suárez 3b	4	1	1	1	0	3	.207
Lowe dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.242
Steer rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Stephenson c	4	0	1	0	0	3	.234
Friedl cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.174
McLain 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.190
a-I.Johnson ph-2b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**18**	

Philadelphia	**003 000 010 — 4 8 0**
Cincinnati	**000 000 100 — 1 5 0**

LOB: Philadelphia 6, Cincinnati 7. **2B:** Hill (3). **HR:** Schwarber (31), off Abbott; Suárez (9), off Wheeler. **RBIs:** Turner (32), Schwarber 2 (57), Sosa (25), Suárez (32). **SB:** Sosa (3), Crawford (11). **SF:** Sosa. **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 3 (Stott, Schwarber, Realmuto); Cincinnati 3 (Suárez 2, Friedl). **RISP:** Philadelphia 2 for 8; Cincinnati 0 for 3. **Runners moved up:** Turner, Harper, Stewart.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler, W, 9-1	7.0	4	1	1	0	14	104	2.28
Kerkering, H, 8	0.2	0	0	0	3	0	33	2.50
Bowlan, H, 3	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	3.25
Duran, S, 22-23	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	20	1.47

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott, L, 5-5	6.0	5	3	3	0	8	95	3.92
P.Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	19	4.15
Ferguson	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	15	2.12
Garcia	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	17	1.93
Moll	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.82

T: 3:05. **A:** 31,204 (43,891).

Cubs 5, Orioles 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	0	2	1	0	1	.293
Bregman 3b	5	0	2	2	0	0	.243
Busch 1b	2	0	0	1	2	0	.232
Suzuki rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Hoerner 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.242
Conforto dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Swanson ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.211
Amaya c	3	3	2	0	1	1	.234
Totals	**35**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**3**	**5**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.251
Rutschman c	4	0	2	2	0	0	.259
Henderson ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.223
Alonso 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Mayo 3b	1	0	0	0	1	1	.189
c-Cowser ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Jackson 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Basallo dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.256
Alexander rf-2b-3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.309
Beavers cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.218
O'Neill ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.182
Holliday 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.183
Taveras ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Totals	**32**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**3**	**12**	

Chicago	**001 020 110 — 5 10 1**
Baltimore	**000 000 200 — 2 6 0**

E: Suzuki (1). **LOB:** Chicago 7, Baltimore 7. **2B:** Amaya (7), Bregman (14). **RBIs:** Bregman 2 (34), Crow-Armstrong (50), Busch (48), Swanson (58), Rutschman 2 (47). **SB:** Hoerner (13). **SF:** Busch. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Suzuki 3); Baltimore 4 (Beavers 2, Henderson 2). **RISP:** Chicago 3 for 8; Baltimore 1 for 9. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Swanson, Hoerner, Busch); Baltimore 1 (Holliday, Henderson, Alonso).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd, W, 4-1	6.0	3	0	0	2	7	93	4.31
Rolison	0.2	2	2	2	1	2	27	2.91
Webb, H, 6	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	7	3.26
Ferguson, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	5.79
Thornton, S, 2-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.63

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Baz, L, 4-9	6.0	6	3	3	3	3	100	4.21
Nunez	2.0	4	2	2	0	2	37	5.20
Raquet	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	7.36

T: 2:46. **A:** 16,200 (45,971).

Red Sox 8, White Sox 1

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.298
Rafaela cf	5	1	2	2	0	1	.284
Abreu rf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.261
Contreras 1b	4	1	2	2	1	1	.287
R.Gonzalez dh	4	1	1	1	1	2	.292
Durbin 3b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.220
Duran lf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.201
Monasterio ss	4	1	2	1	1	1	.228
Wong c	1	2	1	1	2	0	.294
Totals	**35**	**8**	**11**	**8**	**7**	**8**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vargas 1b-3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.245
Grichuk dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.260
Benintendi ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
C.Montgmry 3b-ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.221
Meidroth 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.265
Antonacci lf	4	0	3	0	0	1	.291
Perez rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Teel c	3	0	0	1	0	1	.205
Acuña ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.218
J.Gonzalez ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Peters cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.291
Totals	**31**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**10**	

Boston	**030 100 004 — 8 11 0**
Chicago	**000 000 100 — 1 4 0**

LOB: Boston 9, Chicago 5. **2B:** Duran (10), Contreras (16), R.Gonzalez (1). **HR:** Monasterio (4), off Schultz; Rafaela (8), off Schultz. **RBIs:** Monasterio (13), Rafaela 2 (38), Wong (15), Contreras 2 (61), R.Gonzalez (5), Duran (44), Teel (11). **SB:** Antonacci (12), Monasterio (2). **CS:** Contreras (2), Abreu (3). **S:** Wong. **RISP:** Boston 3 for 11; Chicago 1 for 5.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Tolle, W, 5-6	6.0	2	0	0	1	6	91	3.14
Coulombe	0.1	2	1	1	1	0	14	4.95
Slaten, H, 10	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	10	6.10
Whitlock, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.40
Watson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	4.62

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schultz, L, 2-6	5.0	7	4	4	3	3	92	6.00
Domínguez	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	19	4.70
Hicks	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	4.30
Eisert	1.2	2	4	4	2	0	37	5.93
Richards	0.1	1	0	0	1	1	14	3.51

T: 2:53. **A:** 25,392 (40,241).

Twins 3, Guardians 1

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Watson cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.233
Fry ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.210
DeLauter rf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.276
Manzardo 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.222
Arias ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Hoskins dh	3	1	1	1	0	1	.180
Rocchio ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Schneemann 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Bailey c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.179
Kwan lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Totals	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**13**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martin lf-cf	3	0	1	1	1	1	.248
Lee 3b	5	0	1	1	0	2	.249
Bell dh	3	1	2	0	1	0	.251
Lewis 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.214
Caratini c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Clemens 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.248
Kreidler ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.256
Keaschall rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.255
Fedko cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Larnach ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.289
Totals	**34**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**8**	

Cleveland	**010 000 000 — 1 3 1**
Minnesota	**020 000 10x — 3 10 0**

E: Bazzana (5). **LOB:** Cleveland 3, Minnesota 11. **2B:** DeLauter (16), Kreidler (4). **3B:** Clemens (3). **HR:** Hoskins (8), off Bradley. **RBIs:** Hoskins (30), Martin (19), Lee (49), Clemens (44). **CS:** Martin (6). **SF:** Martin. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 1 (Rocchio); Minnesota 6 (Lewis 2, Caratini, Kreidler, Fedko 2). **RISP:** Cleveland 0 for 3; Minnesota 2 for 8. **Runners moved up:** Manzardo.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cantillo, L, 7-4	5.0	6	2	0	3	7	94	3.66
Aleman	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	1.50
Sabrowski	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	12	3.33
Festa	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	17	3.82

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradley, W, 8-3	7.0	3	1	1	0	10	101	3.67
Morris, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.64
Rogers, H, 8	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	17	5.73
Gómez, S, 10-10	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.67

T: 2:23. **A:** 17,813 (38,544).

Rangers 8, Angels 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.229
Schanuel 1b	3	1	1	0	1	2	.258
Guzman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.253
Soler dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.216
Lowe cf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.213
Adell rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.248
Peraza 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.245
Meckler lf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.284
Siri ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
O'Hoppe c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.228
Totals	**34**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**2**	**11**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Higashioka ph-dh	1	0	1	0	0	0	.218
Smith 2b-3b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.229
Burger 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.247
Nimmo rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.255
Duran 3b-ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.272
Carter cf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.186
Foscue ph-2b	2	2	2	2	0	0	.284
Osuna lf	3	2	1	3	1	1	.252
Díaz c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.284
Lopez ss	1	0	1	2	0	0	.324
Cauley ph-cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.188
Totals	**34**	**8**	**11**	**8**	**2**	**7**	

Los Angeles	**200 000 100 — 3 9 0**
Texas	**020 000 15x — 8 11 0**

LOB: Los Angeles 6, Texas 6. **2B:** Soler (11). **HR:** Foscue (6), off Saucedo; Osuna (1), off Bachman. **RBIs:** Soler (39), Lowe (20), Meckler (16), Lopez 2 (11), Foscue 2 (17), Duran (45), Osuna 3 (18). **SB:** Peraza (10). **S:** Lopez. **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 4; Texas 4 for 10. **DP:** Texas 2 (Smith, Burger; Duran, Smith, Burger).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Soriano	6.0	2	2	2	2	4	93	3.40
Saucdo, BS, 0-1	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	26	5.40
Bachmn, L, 1-2	0.2	6	5	5	0	0	25	4.35
Suter	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	9	4.56

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
deGrom	5.0	5	2	2	2	7	80	3.49
Winn	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6.39
Martin	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	18	7.30
Gray, W, 4-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	22	2.78
Alexander	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	22	2.37

T: 2:43. **A:** 23,816 (40,000).

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 1

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.267
Perdomo ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	.243
Carroll rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.263
Moreno dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.290
Kepler lf	1	0	0	1	1	1	.167
Gurriel ph-lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.221
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.149
McCann c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.210
Tawa cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.159
Totals	**30**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**8**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.281
Merrill cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.218
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.229
Machado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.188
Sheets dh	3	1	0	0	1	0	.233
Cronenworth 1b	3	1	1	3	0	0	.183
Campusano c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.300
Taylor lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.330
Bowen lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Song 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Totals	**29**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**3**	**5**	

Arizona	**100 000 000 — 1 5 1**
San Diego	**400 000 00x — 4 6 1**

E: Tawa (2), Cronenworth (3). **LOB:** Arizona 5, San Diego 4. **2B:** Marte (19), Tatis (19). **HR:** Cronenworth (3), off Gallen. **RBIs:** Kepler (5), Merrill (35), Cronenworth 3 (10). **SB:** Merrill (19), Bogaerts (11). **RISP:** Arizona 0 for 4; San Diego 2 for 3. **DP:** Arizona 2 (Marte, Perdomo, Smith; Arenado, Perdomo, Smith); San Diego 3 (Song; Machado, Song, Cronenworth; Bogaerts, Song, Cronenworth).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gallen, L, 3-9	6.0	6	4	4	3	5	96	6.34
Ginkel	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.06
Loáisiga	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.29

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Márquez, W, 4-2	5.0	3	1	0	3	4	82	5.02
Matsui, H, 3	0.1	2	0	0	0	1	15	2.01
Brito, H, 1	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	17	0.00
B.Rodrguz, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2.15
Miller, S, 23-23	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	0.96

T: 2:27. **A:** 40,223 (40,222).

Wings 88, Liberty 77

Dallas

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Kuier	27:41	3-6	1-1	4-12	7	4	10
Ogunbowale	31:42	3-8	2-2	1-1	1	4	8
Shepard	36:49	11-16	0-0	3-12	11	3	22
Bueckers	33:21	5-15	4-4	1-7	6	1	15
Fudd	34:19	6-13	0-0	0-0	3	1	12
Smith	15:30	3-8	1-1	1-5	1	2	8
Sims	11:30	2-5	4-4	0-1	0	1	8
James	9:08	2-5	0-0	0-0	0	1	5
Totals	200:00	35-76	12-12	10-38	29	17	88

Percentages: FG .461, FT 1.000. **3-point goals:** 6-23, .261 (Kuier 3-4, James 1-2, Smith 1-3, Bueckers 1-5, Sims 0-1, Fudd 0-4, Ogunbowale 0-4). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 5 (Kuier 3, Bueckers 2). **Turnovers:** 9 (Shepard 4, Bueckers, James, Kuier, Ogunbowale, Smith). **Steals:** 3 (Fudd 2, Ogunbowale). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Gardner	26:15	0-4	4-4	1-3	1	3	4
Stewart	32:57	10-16	9-11	2-9	4	4	29
J.Jones	31:45	6-11	2-2	1-12	2	4	17
Astier	23:23	2-4	0-0	0-2	1	1	4
Ionescu	32:50	5-15	2-2	1-3	5	3	14
Johannes	21:25	2-7	3-3	0-2	1	1	7
Laney-Hamilton	14:35	0-5	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Xu	8:15	1-3	0-0	2-3	0	0	2
Carrera	4:36	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Allen	3:59	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	200:00	26-65	20-22	7-34	16	18	77

Percentages: FG .400, FT .909. **3-point goals:** 5-26, .192 (J.Jones 3-6, Ionescu 2-7, Gardner 0-1, Laney-Hamilton 0-1, Xu 0-1, Astier 0-2, Stewart 0-3, Johannes 0-5). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 4 (J.Jones 2, Allen, Ionescu). **Turnovers:** 14 (Ionescu 4, J.Jones 4, Astier 2, Stewart 2, Allen, Johannes). **Steals:** 3 (Gardner, Johannes, Stewart). **Technicals:** coach Chris DeMarco, 3:54 third.

Dallas	18	29	22	19 —	88
Liberty	20	11	23	23 —	77

A: 17,532 (17,732). **T:** 2:05.

Blue Jays 9, Giants 3

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Clement 2b	4	1	3	1	0	0	.298
Lukes rf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.285
Guerrero 1b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.263
Okamoto 3b	5	1	1	0	0	0	.235
Valenzuela c	4	2	2	1	0	1	.241
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Keys dh	4	2	2	2	0	1	.207
Clase lf	4	2	2	3	0	1	.400
Straw lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Giménez ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.234
Totals	**37**	**9**	**13**	**8**	**2**	**5**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ramos rf	4	2	2	0	0	1	.279
Arraez 2b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.327
Schmitt 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.279
Devers dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.246
Lee cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.311
Adames ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.231
Eldridge 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Bericoto lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.309
Cavanaugh c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**6**	

Toronto	**035 000 001 — 9 13 0**
San Francisco	**011 010 000 — 3 9 0**

LOB: Toronto 4, San Francisco 5. **2B:** Clement (23), Arraez (20). **HR:** Clase (1), off McDonald. **RBIs:** Clase 3 (3), Valenzuela (20), Keys 2 (5), Giménez (36), Clement (30), Bericoto (9), Arraez (34). **SF:** Clement. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 3 (Lukes, Okamoto, Guerrero); San Francisco 3 (Cavanaugh, Lee 2). **RISP:** Toronto 4 for 10; San Francisco 2 for 8.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miles	4.0	7	2	2	0	1	55	2.95
Corbin, W, 3-4	2.1	2	1	1	0	2	41	5.07
Hoffman	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	8	4.35
Fluharty	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.58
Varland	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	19	0.94

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McDonald, L, 3-7	2.1	11	8	8	1	0	58	5.46
Houser	5.2	0	0	0	1	5	67	4.95
Walker	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	18	6.75

T: 2:26. **A:** 32,140 (41,915).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	12	8	.600	—
Liberty	13	9	.591	—
Atlanta	12	9	.571	½
Washington	10	10	.500	2
Toronto	9	11	.450	3
Chicago	7	14	.333	5½
Connecticut	5	16	.238	7½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	15	6	.714	—
Las Vegas	15	6	.714	—
Golden State	15	7	.682	½
Dallas	14	8	.636	1½
Portland	9	12	.429	6
Los Angeles	8	11	.421	6
Phoenix	8	14	.364	7½
Seattle	6	17	.261	10

Tuesday
Dallas 88, **Liberty** 77
Chicago 77, Phoenix 66

Wednesday
Golden State at Toronto, 7pm
Minnesota at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Indiana at Los Angeles, 10pm

Thursday
Seattle at Atlanta, 8pm
Indiana at Phoenix, 10pm
Las Vegas at Portland, 10pm

FIFA World Cup

ROUND OF 16
Saturday, July 4
Morocco 3, Canada 0
France 1, Paraguay 0
Sunday, July 5
Norway 2, Brazil 1
England 3, Mexico 2
Monday, July 6
Spain 1, Portugal 0
Belgium 4**, United States** 1
Tuesday
Argentina 3, Egypt 2
Switzerland 0, Colombia 0
(Switzerland adv. on penalty kicks, 4-3.)
QUARTERFINAL
Thursday
France vs. Morocco, 4pm
Friday
Spain vs. Belgium, 3pm
Saturday
Norway vs. England, 5pm
Argentina vs. Switzerland, 9pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Tuesday
Atlanta 96, Memphis 82
Utah 103, Oklahoma City 69

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	9	4	1	28	21	13
Portland	8	3	3	27	24	14
Washington	7	2	3	24	20	10
Utah Royals FC	7	3	3	24	20	13
Kansas City	8	5	0	24	21	17
North Carolina	6	3	3	21	20	14
Gotham FC	**6**	**3**	**3**	**21**	**12**	**7**
Orlando	5	6	2	17	18	19
Angel City	5	6	1	16	18	14
Denver Summit FC	4	5	3	15	17	16
Seattle	4	6	2	14	11	16
Houston	4	7	2	14	15	21
Bay FC	3	6	3	12	11	19
Chicago	4	9	0	12	8	26
Boston Legacy FC	2	7	4	10	13	21
Louisville	2	9	1	7	15	24

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday
Chicago at Boston Legacy FC, 8pm
Bay FC at Louisville, 8pm
Kansas City at Orlando, 8pm
Gotham FC at Utah Royals FC, 10pm
Saturday
Washington at North Carolina, 6:30pm
Angel City at San Diego, 8:45pm

Big Blue ink DE cut by Titans

The new Giants coaching staff is bringing in a familiar face.

The Giants claimed defensive end C.J. Ravenell off waivers Tuesday after the 6-foot-5, 300-pounder was cut from the Titans injured reserve list the previous day.

Ravenell, 26, spent the 2024 season in Baltimore with John Harbaugh as a member of the Ravens practice squad. Last year, the undrafted free agent — out of Division II Missouri Western — played under new Giants defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson, who served in the same role in Tennessee.

Ravenell appeared in 14 games (one start) with the Titans, recording six tackles (one solo) and one forced fumble.

The Giants made room on the 90-man roster by waiving cornerback Rico Payton with an injury designation. Payton, 26, was primarily used on special teams while appearing in nine games with the Giants last season, making 12 tackles (five solo).

— Howie Kussoy

Wimbledon

**At All England Lawn Tenn

New York Post, Wednesday, July 8, 2026 nypost.com

The POST Line

MLB
Wednesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
RAYS	$103-126	Yankees
METS	OFF	Royals
TIGERS	$132-160	Athletics
WHITE SOX	$107-130	Red Sox
TWINS	$113-137	Guardians
RANGERS	$132-160	Angels
Braves	-101-121	PIRATES
REDS	OFF	Phillies
Brewers	$112-136	CARDINALS
DODGERS	$183-227	Rockies
PADRES	$127-157	Diamondbacks
Blue Jays	-102-120	GIANTS
Cubs	-103-119	ORIOLES
Mariners	$118-138	MARLINS
NATIONALS	$114-138	Astros

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Wednesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Valkryies	7.5 (169.5)	TEMPO
Lynx	7.5 (167.5)	SUN
Fever	6.5 (184.5)	SPARKS

FIFA World Cup
Thursday- Quarterfinals

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
France	$275-375	Morocco
game held in Foxborough, Mass.		
Friday		
Spain	$250-325	Belgium
game held in Los Angeles		
Saturday		
*England	$170-220	Norway
**Argentina	$220-285	Switzerland
*Miami, **Kansas City, Mo.		

CFL
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ELKS	7 (58.5)	Redblacks
Friday		
Argonauts	2.5 (60.5)	BLUE BOMBERS
Saturday		
ALOUETTES	3.5 (62.5)	Stampeders
Sunday		
ROUGHRIDERS	8.5 (54.5)	Tiger-Cats

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: O'Hearn makes Pirates history

Pirates first baseman **Ryan O'Hearn** made history, setting a club record by driving in 10 runs on three homers in a 12-4 win over the Braves in Pittsburgh.

O'Hearn hit a grand slam off Atlanta starter **Hurston Waldrep** in the first, added a three-run shot off Waldrep in the third and took Braves reliever **Connor Thomas** deep with another three-run shot in the sixth.

● In Miami, **Jakob Marsee** hit a walk-off RBI single off the wall in right field in the 10th inning as the Marlins defeated the Mariners 6-5.

● In Cincinnati, **Zack Wheeler** tied a career high with 14 strikeouts, **Kyle Schwarber** hit his major league-best 31st home run of the season, and the Phillies beat the Reds 4-1.

● In St. Louis, **Joey Ortiz** homered, **Robert Gasser** pitched a career-high 7 2/3 innings, and the Brewers beat the Cardinals 10-2 to complete a doubleheader sweep.

In Game 1, **Jacob Misiorowski** struck out 11 in seven strong innings, **Christian Yelich** drove in a pair of runs and the Brewers rallied to beat the Cardinals 4-3 in the first game.

● In Los Angeles, **Shohei Ohtani** hit his 300th career homer, a leadoff shot against Rockies pitcher **Michael Lorenzen** that made him the first Japanese-born player in the majors to reach the milestone. The Rockies would rally to record a 4-3 win.

NBA: Middleton joins Wiz in big trade

The Pistons are sending veteran guard **Caris LeVert** and two second-round picks to the Bucks in exchange for **Taurean Prince** and Gary Harris, ESPN reported.

The trade is part of a larger six-team deal ESPN reported, which includes veteran guard **Khris Middleton** returning to the Wizards on a three-year, $17.6 million sign-and-trade agreement with the Mavericks. The Pistons, Grizzlies and Clippers were also involved in the trade.

● Former NBA star **Lamar Odom** is expected to enter a plea deal in a DUI case in Las Vegas, according to his defense attorney, Michael Becker. Odom, 46, was arrested Jan. 17 and later charged with driving under the influence, speeding and failure to stay in a driving lane. He pleaded not guilty in March.

● The Lakers have found their backup big man to complement **Walker Kessler**.

The team has agreed to terms with **Kevon Looney** on a one-year deal for a veteran minimum salary of $3.9 million, his agent, Life Sports Agency CEO **Todd Ramasar,** confirmed to The Post. ESPN first reported the deal.

NFL: Ex-Cowboy Kneeland had CTE

Former Cowboys defensive end **Marshawn Kneeland**, who died by suicide in November 2025 after a high-speed chase with police, had early stage chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a brain abnormality linked to repeated head trauma, his family announced Tuesday.

The Boston University CTE Center, which investigates the long-term consequences of repetitive brain trauma in athletes and others, analyzed Kneeland's brain tissue after his death. Researchers determined Kneeland, who was 24, was in stage one of four of CTE.

TOP PLAY

Jays to win an arm-wrestle

By ERICH RICHTER

No soccer Wednesday, but we do have a pitchers' duel. The Blue Jays head west to face Logan Webb and the Giants on Wednesday afternoon in what should be an excellent mound matchup.

The Blue Jays counter with Dylan Cease, who has been excellent, posting a 2.79 ERA in 16 starts, and is among the favorites to win the AL Cy Young Award.

Webb has been solid in his own right, pitching to a 3.66 ERA and 78 strikeouts in just north of 93 innings.

The Giants play in one of the most pitcher-friendly parks in the majors and allow the second-fewest home runs in 2026 and the sixth-fewest total runs, per Statcast.

With two strong pitchers, runs may be at a premium, and that's before you include how deplorable these two offenses have been.

Toronto is scoring just 3.92 runs per game, the second-worst figure in the majors, while the Giants come in at 4.16 runs per game, the eighth-worst.

The run total comes in at seven, and I expect this one to go under, The Under is 20-18-3 in home games for the Giants, the third-best mark in the majors.

I also slightly favor the Blue Jays in what is a coin-flip matchup, as Cease is as dominant as ever, while some peripheral stats, such as average exit velocity, point to slight regression coming for Webb.

THE PLAYS: Blue Jays ML (-105, Fanatics); Under 7 total runs (-125, Fanatics).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026 W-L	2026 ERA	*REC	'26 vs OPP W-L	'26 vs OPP ERA	CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS W-L	LAST 3 STARTS IP	LAST 3 STARTS ERA
Yankees	Cole (R)		3-3	4.01	4-4	–	–	5-7	1-2	14.2	6.75
Rays	McClanahan (L)	(6:40pm)	7-5	3.05	9-7	–	–	1-4	1-1	15.2	2.30
Royals	TBD		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mets	Scott (R)	(7:10pm)	2-1	3.49	8-3	–	–	–	0-1	13.0	6.23
Blue Jays	Cease (R)		5-4	2.79	10-6	1-1	6.30	4-3	1-1	17.1	3.12
Giants	Webb (R)	(3:45pm)	5-6	3.66	5-10	0-1	6.00	0-3	1-2	18.0	4.50
Cubs	Rea (R)		6-5	4.74	6-8	–	–	0-0	1-0	15.1	1.76
Orioles	Kremer (R)	(6:35pm)	1-1	3.18	2-1	–	–	1-1	1-1	17.0	3.18
Mariners	Kirby (R)		7-7	3.81	9-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	20.0	2.70
Marlins	Phillips (R)	(6:40pm)	1-3	3.52	3-4	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	16.2	4.86
Astros	Arrighetti (R)		7-4	3.81	9-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	15.0	9.00
Nationals	Griffin (L)	(6:45pm)	9-2	2.87	14-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	19.1	0.93
Athletics	Springs (L)		3-8	5.79	7-11	–	–	2-1	0-1	14.1	9.42
Tigers	Melton (R)	(6:40pm)	4-1	2.04	5-2	–	–	0-0	1-1	18.1	0.98
Red Sox	Bennett (L)		3-3	3.10	3-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	20.0	1.35
White Sox	Martin (R)	(7:40pm)	9-3	3.08	12-5	1-0	1.50	1-0	0-0	14.2	1.84
Guardians	Cecconi (R)		4-6	4.44	7-11	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	17.0	3.71
Twins	Prielipp (L)	(7:40pm)	2-5	4.96	4-8	0-1	1.80	0-1	0-1	18.0	4.50
Angels	Ureña (R)		5-7	3.03	6-8	1-0	1.80	1-0	1-2	15.0	4.80
Rangers	Gore (L)	(8:05pm)	5-7	4.31	8-10	0-0	1.50	0-1	1-1	18.0	4.50
Braves	Holmes (R)		5-4	3.83	10-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	11.2	3.86
Pirates	Jones (R)	(6:40pm)	1-1	5.28	5-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	11.2	3.86
Phillies	TBD		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Reds	Burns (R)	(7:10pm)	10-1	2.40	13-4	1-0	1.50	1-0	2-0	17.0	4.24
Brewers	Harrison (L)		8-1	2.82	12-4	1-0	0.00	1-0	0-0	14.0	4.50
Cardinals	McGreevy (R)	(7:45pm)	3-7	3.12	7-10	0-1	11.25	0-1	0-2	17.0	3.71
D'Backs	Cabrera (R)		0-1	4.72	0-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	13.1	4.73
Padres	King (R)	(10:10pm)	5-7	3.52	7-11	0-0	3.00	2-0	1-1	17.1	3.12
Rockies	Feltner (R)		3-2	4.27	6-6	0-0	3.18	1-3	1-0	18.0	2.50
Dodgers	Sasaki (R)	(10:10pm)	3-5	5.40	7-8	0-0	5.79	0-0	0-1	12.2	8.53

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Cease Fires! Play the Jays

World Cup update. President Trump tried to make America great again by making Folarin Balogun's red card disappear. But Balogun's return had the same impact as Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi's return to the cast of "Jersey Shore." The good news here is that you and I no longer have to pretend we like soccer. Right, Joe from Brooklyn? "These 'fans' who jumped on the USA bandwagon are the same people who went to the Knicks parade and asked, 'Which one is Jalen Brunson again?' " ... More good news. Got my haircut while the barber had one eye on my hair and the other on Argentina-Egypt. Argentina came away with a 3-2 win and I walked away with both ears intact. Things could have gotten very Messi.

Quick pick. Toronto at Frisco. Play $50 on Dylan Cease and the Blue Jays.

+$

Run over in the Motor City. Tarik Skubal struck out nine A's, Colt Keith homered and the Tigers won 6-2. Winning streak snapped. Down -89 vidablues.

stitches@nypost.com

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Laney-Hamilton dealing with diminished impact

ROLE WITH IT

By MADELINE KENNEY

The chant started like background noise but gradually amplified. An undeniable chorus of "We want Laney" chants rang throughout Barclays Center last week as Betnijah Laney-Hamilton sat on the Liberty's bench.

Laney-Hamilton never entered the game. But the fan support meant "a lot" to the former All-Star, who's working to rediscover her groove.

"It's also a little overwhelming with the situation and everything and emotions," she said Tuesday before the Wings beat the Liberty 88-77. "But it's something that I don't take for granted, something that I do really appreciate to just know that the fans continue to have my back through a difficult time."

With Leonie Fiebich sidelined Tuesday with foot soreness, Laney-Hamilton earned her spot back in the rotation. She looked rusty playing in her first game since June 28, finishing with an assist and zero points (0-for-5 from the field) in 15 minutes off the bench.

Laney-Hamilton took a chance on New York when not many free agents were willing. She joined the Liberty when the team was in the thick of a rebuild in 2021. She became a beloved franchise pillar. She navigated injuries and poured everything she had into the Liberty during the 2024 championship season.

Yet Laney-Hamilton's future is in question, with the Aug. 2 trade deadline approaching fast.

Asked point-blank if she expected to be with the Liberty through the end of the season, Laney-Hamilton said, "We're working on things.

"I don't know what everything looks like right now," she continued. "I'm just trying to take everything one step at a time and just stay in the moment. It's been difficult. But today, right now, I feel pretty good. I just want to be able to focus on the game."

YOU BET-CHA! Betnijah Laney-Hamilton (44) said her current role with the team can sometimes be "disappointing and frustrating," but she said she is doing her best to contribute in whatever way the Liberty need. She played 15 minutes off the bench in Tuesday's 88-77 loss to Dallas, but she did not score.

Getty Images

Laney-Hamilton's comeback season has challenged her in ways she hadn't necessarily expected. She's done her best to mask any dissatisfaction she may feel regarding her fluctuating role. In the past two weeks, Laney-Hamilton hasn't played in three games, despite being available.

"Just as a competitor and everything, as somebody who's worked really hard, somebody who's been a part of the organization for a long time, it's ... it can sometimes be disappointing and frustrating," she said of her role. "But that's also part of the process. So like I said, I'm just trying to — as much as possible — just come out, be the best version of myself within the circumstances."

Laney-Hamilton missed all of last season rehabbing from knee surgery. She put in a lot of work behind the scenes so she could enter this year the healthiest she had been for quite some time.

"Physically, I feel better than I felt in a long time," she said. "And so just taking it a day at a time, working through everything."

Laney-Hamilton went from being a starter to coming off the bench to being out of the rotation. She missed time for personal reasons early on, then was sidelined for two games after having an injection in her surgically repaired knee before a June 14 game in Chicago. She's averaging 17.6 minutes in 15 games (five starts), her fewest since 2018.

Coach Chris DeMarco explained some of Laney-Hamilton's benchings as the result of him tightening the rotation. He has repeatedly expressed confidence in her.

"She is valuable to us," he said.

Laney-Hamilton said she's discussed her situation with DeMarco and general manager Jonathan Kolb several times.

"We've had a lot of different conversations," she said, "and so now just trying to figure everything out and work through things."

Her teammates are doing what they can to support her during this difficult season.

"Just picking her up every day, telling her things that I see that she can do or ways that she can help our team," said Jonquel Jones, who recently gifted Laney-Hamilton a bottle of Beyoncé's SirDavis American Rye Whisky. "Obviously, she's staying ready and waiting for her number to be called and so just pouring into her positively, letting her know I'm there for her. ... Whatever it takes, man. That's my sister."

mkenney@nypost.com

Liberty plead for even officiating after loss to Wings

By MADELINE KENNEY

WINGS 88
LIBERTY 77

Boxscore Page 41

Coach Chris DeMarco didn't take the bait.

Asked about the officiating after the Liberty's 88-77 loss to the Wings Tuesday, DeMarco said the referees "were awesome" and followed it up with a smirk.

The Liberty didn't lose the game because of officiating.

In the second quarter, the Liberty were outscored 29-11, with seven of their points coming from the free-throw line. During that stretch, they shot an abysmal 2-for-15 from the field (13.1 percent), including 0-for-5 from deep, and trailed by 16 at halftime.

The Liberty trimmed the Wings' lead to single digits multiple times in the second half, but never could pull back in front.

After the loss, one of the biggest issues plaguing this league took center stage: officiating.

The Liberty were on the wrong end of a few tough calls late. In one instance, Jessica Shepard appeared to elbow Rebecca Allen in the nose near the baseline as the ball dropped out of bounds. The Wings maintained possession, and Allen left the game with an apparent nose injury.

Sabrina Ionescu said "it's tough" to continue playing when it feels like fouls on one end of the floor aren't called on the other.

"All everyone's asking for is consistency one way or another, whether they're going to call it, whether they're not," Ionescu said. "You got to call it evenly on both sides, and I think tonight you were kind of able to see how difficult it is when things are being called one way ... and then a different way the other way."

Ionescu believes flopping is a bigger issue now "than it's ever been before."

"Sometimes I think teams that don't sell it as much don't get rewarded," Ionescu said. "And I think that's just a tough way to play because you want to continue to play basketball at a really high level and not have to change the way you play because of the officiating and because of what's being called. ... I think that's something that needs to continue to be a point of emphasis is we can't let the game get to that."

Ionescu said she understands fixes to officiating are a "work in progress" and acknowledged the Liberty didn't lose Tuesday purely because of officiating.

"We're never going to point the finger at it, at it being the refs or one thing or another," she said, "because obviously that's not something that we can control, but it's something that we know is going to improve."

Luis misses planned Double-A rehab game

By DAN MARTIN

Luis Robert Jr. was scheduled to play another minor league rehab game Tuesday with Double-A Binghamton, but interim manager Andy Green said at Citi Field that Robert would only "work out" and "hopefully" play for Binghamton on Wednesday.

For a team that's been beset by injuries to key players all season, it's become impossible to predict when anyone might return to the major league lineup.

After a 16-12 loss to the Royals, Robert said through an interpreter he felt "really good" and the organization wanted him to avoid any setbacks.

METS NOTES

As for a return to the Mets, Robert said, "I don't know how close we are yet."

Robert has played three rehab games with Triple-A Syracuse after being on the IL since April with a lumbar spine disc herniation.

"It's hard to be out and it's something that's happened a good amount in my career," said Robert, who battled injuries in each of the previous two seasons with the White Sox. "But I haven't missed this amount of time since 2021, so it's frustrating."

With rookies A.J. Ewing and Carson Benge playing center and right field, respectively, on a consistent basis, and Juan Soto entrenched in left, Green was asked how Robert's potential return might impact the outfield alignment.

"We'll cross that bridge when we get there," Green said.

➤ The Mets were the recipients of a three-run gift in the bottom of the first, as Benge hit a Little League homer on his grounder back to pitcher **Seth Lugo**. Lugo's throw got away from first baseman **Jac Caglianone**, who then threw wildly to no one in particular, before third baseman **Nick Loftin** tossed the ball away again. Benge, Ewing and **Bo Bichette** all scored on the play. Green said he'd never seen a play with as many "ping-pong throws back and forth."

➤ With **Jorge Polanco** reinstated from the 60-day IL, **Ronny Mauricio** was optioned to Triple-A Syracuse to open a spot on the 26-man roster. To clear a spot on the 40-man roster for Polanco, right-hander **Alex Carrillo** was designated for assignment. Right-hander **Guillo Zuñiga** was also designated for assignment after righty **Matt Seelinger** was selected to the major league roster following the trade that brought him from Detroit on Monday. ... Green said **Marcus Semien** (left hip flexor strain) ran at 80 percent Monday.

MAKING A PITCH: Gotham FC, which celebrated an NWSL Challenge Cup title June 26 (inset), will share Etihad Park with NYCFC.

Moving to the City

Gotham to make itself at home at NYCFC stadium

By JONATHAN LEHMAN

Gotham FC is moving to the big city — from New Jersey to Queens, where starting in 2028, the reigning NWSL champion will play home games at New York City FC's soon-to-be-opened Etihad Park.

But the move to New York City's first soccer-specific stadium, officially announced Tuesday at a City Hall set piece with Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Gov. Kathy Hochul, is more than your typical tale of growing up and nabbing a residence in a shiny new development. To the team's stewards, it represents something bigger and more global.

"We set a vision to be one of the best teams in the world, and to be one of the best teams in the world, you have to play in world-class venues," Gotham owner Carolyn Tisch Blodgett told The Post. "It felt like this was the place to elevate our team to the next level."

Etihad Park, the 25,000-seat, roughly $1 billion project near Citi Field in Willets Point that is set to open in 2027 for its MLS occupants, "matches Gotham FC's standard of excellence," Mamdani said.

Gotham will start on a five-year lease with options to extend it up to 15 years, per a team spokesperson.

Gotham has played at Sports Illustrated Stadium, formerly known as Red Bull Arena, in Harrison, N.J., since 2021, and will remain there through the 2027 season.

The upgrades at Etihad Park? Gotham will have a dedicated locker room for the first time. With the stadium's all-digital signage, "on game day, it will truly feel like a Gotham home — it will be completely branded," Tisch Blodgett said. There will also be better food and drink options.

"Our ability to create that kind of atmosphere on game day that gives us a true home-field advantage where other teams hate coming to play against us and we have our crowd packed out all rowdy, I think is really exciting," president of soccer operations Yael Averbuch West told The Post.

Gotham averaged 8,892 fans in 2025, which ranked eighth of 14 NWSL teams. This season, it's 8,148 (12th of 16), though that figure is expected to rise as the weather warms up and with the July 15 Queens Classic at Citi Field expected to draw in the neighborhood of 40,000.

"Our goal is to fill a game every single week. We should be sold out. That's what women's sports deserve," Tisch Blodgett said.

A recurring data point brought up Tuesday: The new Queens location makes Gotham games accessible to an additional 3 million people within a 75-minute public transit commute. Tisch Blodgett also said internal data show 60 percent of Gotham's current season ticket holders and fans will have the same travel time or less.

"What we hear from our fans over and over is they absolutely love the product, they love the experience and it's really hard to get to," Tisch Blodgett said. "And that limits them."

The other side of those tracks: The diehards based closer to Harrison or the team's previous home (in the Sky Blue days) at Rutgers, for whom a trip to the end of the 7 line will be prohibitive.

Gotham also recently announced plans to open its own training facility in Whippany, N.J.

"New Jersey is where this team was born. It's where our formative years were, and so we have thought a lot about: How do we continue to make this accessible?" Tisch Blodgett said. "We hope as many fans as possible will move with us."

MLS' adoption of a late-summer-to-spring calendar for the 2027-28 season will ease scheduling concerns between NYCFC and Gotham, which plays from spring to fall. Still, expect plenty of two-game weekends and even some day-night doubleheaders. A partnership that was a "couple of years in the making," according to NYCFC CEO Brad Sims, officially kicked off Tuesday.

"They were very, very interested in what we were building from Day 1 and our vision for the stadium," Sims told The Post, "and we were interested in their organization because it's a great organization."

jlehman@nypost.com

SUMMER HEAT

Zuby already silencing Hawks fans who derided first-round selection

STORM BREWING: Former St. John's star Zuby Ejiofor opened eyes in his first two summer league games, including a 19-point, 15-rebound effort Monday night. Getty Images

Zach Braziller

A FEW weeks ago, Hawks fans flooded social media, expressing their displeasure with Atlanta's second first-round draft choice, Zuby Ejiofor.

All it took was two summer league games for them to change their tune, raving about the former St. John's star after his monster effort in a win Monday night.

This, of course, is nothing new. Narratives can flip fast this time of year. Summer league games should be taken with several grains of salt.

What should not be dismissed when it comes to Ejiofor is how far he has come in only a few years. From a player who rarely cracked Bill Self's rotation as a freshman at Kansas to the top center, the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar award winner, in all of college basketball this past season.

That Ejiofor would outwork other players in these first two exhibition games of NBA hopefuls — he had 19 points and 15 rebounds Monday — shouldn't be a surprise. It's what he did the last two years as a Johnnie, in leading Rick Pitino's team to back-to-back Big East regular-season and postseason titles.

The knock on Ejiofor entering the draft was his age (22), size (measured 6-foot-7 without shoes) and limited offensive repertoire as an undersized big man. What his critics failed to mention was the fact he was the lone high-major player to lead his team in scoring, rebounding, assists and blocked shots, and his 3-point shooting increased in frequency and accuracy the last year. He's a quality free-throw shooter, an indication of potential beyond the arc.

Then there is his motor, inner drive and winning mindset. Those qualities can be tough to measure if you don't follow a player closely. After St. John's dropped an exhibition game to eventual national champion Michigan in the fall, Ejiofor was crushed, like his team's season had just ended. I asked him a few weeks later about it.

"I always want to win," was his response.

He has some Jalen Brunson in him: When St. John's lost, it was his fault. When they won, he deferred credit. He improved every year. Success bred additional hunger. It made him want more of it, rather than basking in those accolades. Pitino has called him one of his greatest practice players in his nearly 50 years as a coach.

Obviously, some of the credit has to be given to the Hall of Fame coach and his renowned skill development sessions. But, Pitino has often said, his most improved guys have gotten better because of the work they do when nobody is looking, the extra hours they put in on their own.

It's easy to forget, but Ejiofor was a backup his first season in Queens, playing behind Joel Soriano. That offseason, the Red Storm brought in USC transfer Vince Iwuchukwu, a former top 30 prospect. The assumption was Iwuchukwu would start. Ejiofor beat him out and was named the conference's Most Improved Player. Looking for a bigger role, Iwuchukwu transferred to Georgetown that offseason. But he held no animosity — in fact, he was at Ejiofor's draft party in Dallas.

There were two particular moments that stand out to me about Ejiofor's career, two disappointing games that may have broken a weaker-minded player. The first was early in his junior season, during a loss at the buzzer to Baylor in the Bahamas. He missed two free throws in the final seconds, leading to Jeremy Roach's game-winning 3-pointer. Ejiofor was in tears afterward.

The second was an ugly blowout loss this February, when fellow first-round pick Tarris Reed Jr. of UConn overwhelmed him. He responded with a triple-double in a blowout of Villanova, and in the rematch against Reed, he was dominant. St. John's didn't lose again until the Sweet 16.

Ejiofor started to develop into a leader as a junior. It wasn't a seamless transition. His pregame speeches often needed work, teammates joked. By the end of his senior season, he was leading talks in the huddle. He was basically an extra coach.

"I've never had a player in every timeout, when I'm done speaking, take over the huddle — never, at any level — and he's done that," Pitino said late in the year.

None of this is to say I think Ejiofor is going to go on to become an All-Star at the next level, or his strong start in summer league is an indication of anything. We all saw how well Kevin Knox performed in his first summer league as a Knick, and it didn't translate into much.

But I'm certain Ejiofor is going to have a long NBA career because of what I saw in his time in Queens. His work ethic, his determination, his maturity and his attitude aren't things you can teach. How hard he plays is a skill.

There is no reason to believe he's going to stop improving. Brunson, the reigning NBA Finals MVP, didn't stop getting better.

Betting against Ejiofor would be foolish. It seems like Hawks fans are already learning that lesson.

zbraziller@nypost.com

Slumping Goldy has no answers

By GREG JOYCE

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — For the better part of the first three months of the season, Paul Goldschmidt often looked like his former MVP version.

Over his last 30 at-bats, though, he has gone completely missing.

The veteran first baseman's recent skid hit a new low Tuesday night in the Yankees' 6-4 loss to the Rays, when he struck out in all four trips to the plate to sink to 0-for-30 over his last nine games.

YANKS NOTES

"I wish I had an answer for you," Goldschmidt said on a night when the Yankees struck out 17 times for the second straight game. "Obviously the performance tonight especially was terrible. I like to try to be more positive than that, but you strike out four times and there were guys on base, really just a bad performance. [Monday] night was the same.

"Probably swung at too many balls, taking strikes. When I do swing at the right pitch, fouling it off or swing and missing. I'll be ready to go [Wednesday] and every game, but there's no excuses. I have not played well."

Before this brutal nine-game stretch, which has coincided with some awful play from the Yankees overall, Goldschmidt was batting .301 with a .933 OPS through his first 55 games of the season. His consistent presence as a right-handed bat, especially with the Yankees missing Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton, was immensely valuable.

But the 38-year-old is now searching for answers on how to snap out of his recent funk.

➤ **José Caballero**, who matched Goldschmidt with four strikeouts, started at shortstop for the second straight game, marking only his third start at the position since returning from the injured list in late May.

While **Aaron Boone** continues to describe the shortstop situation as a "day-by-day" decision between Caballero and **Anthony Volpe** — the manager is unlikely to come out and declare one as the full-time starter even if he is leaning that way — now that the Yankees are closer to being whole, Caballero has a chance to be there more days than not.

With the Yankees facing Rays lefty **Ian Seymour** on Tuesday, it marked only the second time since Volpe was called up from Triple-A that he did not start against a lefty (the other came June 18, when the White Sox used a lefty opener).

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

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CANCER (June 22-July 23)

As values planet Venus is about to move into the most sociable area of your chart, it will be the most natural thing in the world to get out and about and have fun with your friends. Don't overdo it though. Save some energy for later in the week.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You may be tempted to cheer yourself up by splashing out on something shiny and new, but how will you feel later on when you realize you have spent too much and now need to cut back in other areas? Moderation is a must.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

If you make an effort to listen to what other people are saying, you will understand why they are motivated to act in ways that may seem strange to you but make perfect sense to them. It takes all sorts to make such an interesting world.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You like a challenge and that's just as well because the next few days will bring news that is not only exciting but which encourages you to up your game and reach new heights of achievement. As a Cardinal sign you were born to succeed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You don't have to compromise your beliefs but you do have to accept that not everyone looks at life through the same lens as you. Don't take it personally today if a friend chooses to follow a vastly different course of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

What you expect and what you get will be different things today, especially on the work front where people in positions of power appear to have plans that don't include you. The good news is that frees up time to do your own thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You sometimes come across as a bit too logical and lacking in emotion, but what happens today will turn that on its head and make you seem overly sensitive. Try to remember though that you cannot cure the world of all its ills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You may have a dozen good ideas bouncing around your head, but there is just one idea that you need to focus on now. If you are not sure what idea that is, just ask yourself which of them could make you the most money. That's the one!

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

As Venus is about to move into the partnership area of your chart, you must try to treat everyone you meet with respect, even when they don't seem to deserve it. The good you give out in the world will come back to you many times over.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Don't try to deny it if you make an error of some sort. Not only will your claims of innocence not be believed but you will feel bad about yourself for telling a lie. Like everyone else, you make mistakes, so admit it and then forget it.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Make the most of the time between now and the weekend to focus on a creative project of some kind. Forget about your chores and responsibilities and put everything into making what you are working on the best thing you have ever done.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Your ability to tune in to what makes people tick will come in handy today, especially on the home front where a loved one has been acting out of sorts. Something is clearly bugging them, so find out what it is and help them get over it.

BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY

This could be and should be a magical year for you, but that doesn't mean you can indulge in magical thinking. Keep your thoughts focused on your major goals and move toward them a step at a time. Once you have started, just keep going.

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Partly sunny and warmer. High 79 to 85.

Partly cloudy and humid. Low 68 to 74.

Humid; a heavy t-storm in the afternoon. High 81 to 87.

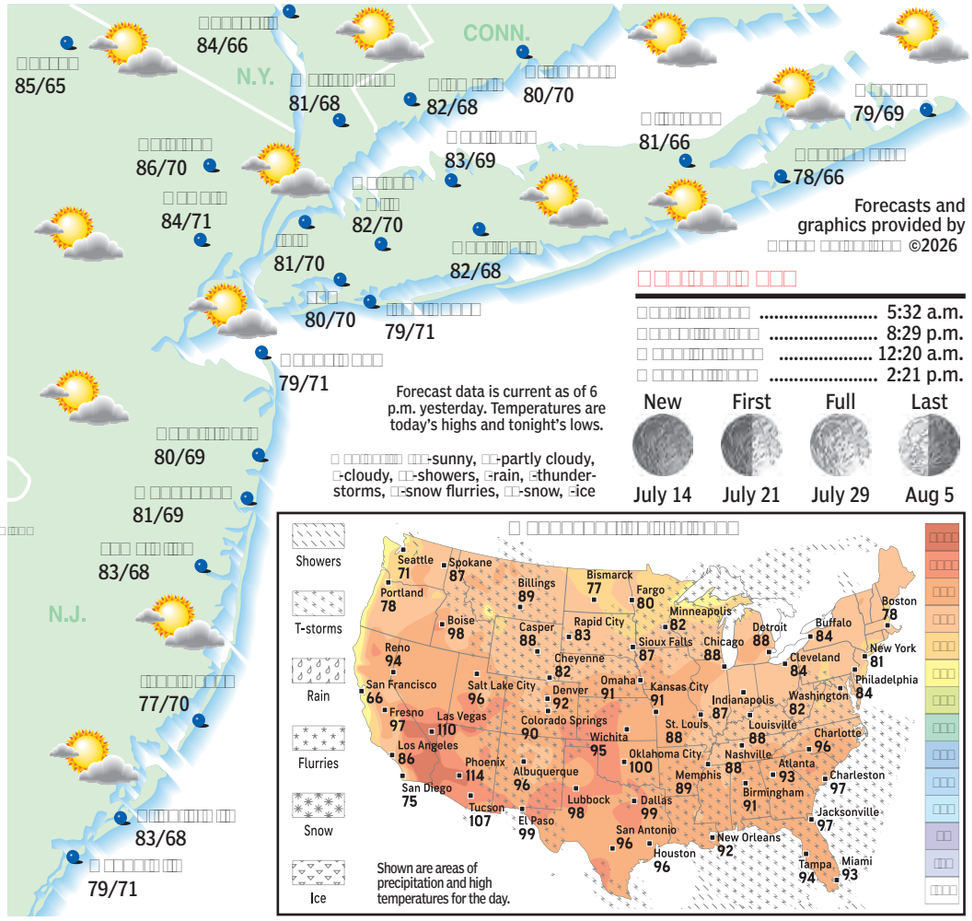
Humid; a heavy t-storm early. Low 70 to 76.

Showers/ t-storms. High 86 to 92.

Humid. Low 70 to 76.

A t-storm around. High 80 to 86.

Mainly clear. Low 68 to 74.



Forecasts and graphics provided by ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

-sunny, -partly cloudy, -cloudy, -showers, -rain, -thunderstorms, -snow flurries, -snow, -ice

	5:32 a.m.
	8:29 p.m.
	12:20 a.m.
	2:21 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
July 14	July 21	July 29	Aug 5

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

High: 70, Low: 63, Mean: 67

Yesterday: -11 degrees

Yesterday: 0.02", Month: 1.49", Year: 19.31", Normal year to date: 24.60"

.....2

.....97 (83)

.....497 (391)

.....425

(at noon yest.) 68

(for Wed.) ..... 10 (Very High)

(at noon) 90%

Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds

(for Wed.) .....Moderate

High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
	2:01a	2:37p	2:59a	3:35p
	2:04a	2:54p	3:03a	4:02p
	5:49a	6:16p	6:51a	7:17p
	5:59a	6:24p	6:59a	7:23p
	1:45a	2:21p	2:43a	3:19p
	3:22a	4:16p	4:24a	5:14p
	5:47a	6:14p	6:47a	7:13p
	2:05a	2:41p	3:03a	3:39p

	84/66/pc	87/70/t
	82/65/pc	84/68/t
	84/61/pc	88/67/t
	84/61/pc	86/66/pc
	86/64/pc	89/68/t
	82/63/pc	82/66/t
	82/63/pc	81/65/t
	85/66/pc	87/71/t
	83/65/pc	85/69/t
	87/62/pc	89/70/t
	85/65/pc	81/67/t
	84/63/pc	86/69/t
	87/69/pc	90/70/t

	90/72/s	88/70/t
	109/89/s	109/87/s
	92/72/pc	91/74/c
	74/54/pc	78/57/pc
	94/73/pc	95/76/pc
	75/56/pc	75/57/pc
	95/67/s	93/63/s
	90/81/r	91/81/sh
	82/66/s	82/65/s
	89/66/pc	92/68/pc
	92/67/s	95/69/s
	103/72/s	101/73/s
	74/55/r	72/56/r
	86/70/pc	79/66/t
	69/60/sh	68/59/sh
	95/69/s	93/70/s
	71/65/pc	72/62/pc
	88/69/s	88/70/s
	63/54/sh	61/49/sh
	88/72/c	90/74/pc

GOLDEN TOUCH

Brunson won Finals MVP despite wrist pain, down 6-8 weeks after surgery

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Jalen Brunson played through pain to carry the Knicks to a championship.

The Finals MVP underwent a minor procedure to repair a tendon issue in his left wrist/hand Tuesday, The Post's Stefan Bondy reported. His recovery timetable is six to eight weeks.

Contrary to reports that it was on his right wrist and hand and that it is set to happen, the procedure already took place and was on his left, shooting side. It was performed at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

Brunson dealt with the discomfort during the Finals against the Spurs. Whenever he went into his natural shooting motion, the tendon painfully rubbed against the bone in his left wrist.

"Based on [that information], it's probably the tendon on the outside of his wrist," Dr. Daniel Kaplan, a sports orthopedic surgeon at NYU Langone Health, told The Post. "That's most likely something called one of the ECU or extensor tendons.

"The tendon always lives on the outside of the wrist and always rubs, that's true for everyone. But sometimes, they can get a little bit looser where it doesn't sit properly in the groove. And then instead of the normal type of rubbing, it can have more — think of a rope going over a sharp edge. Every time it moves, it can hurt. It's not like he can't live with that, but it's painful, it can impact your shot, and over time, if he did nothing, eventually that rope can snap."

It did impact Brunson's shooting, particularly early in games. Adrenaline helped him manage it later in games — when he was more effective — but before he was fully warmed up, it was a struggle.

Brunson shot just 25.8 percent in first quarters across the five games of the Finals. In the second halves, that was up to 44.3 percent. In fourth quarters, he was at 51.4 percent.

And despite the injury, he was able to score 45 points — compared to 49 from all his teammates combined — in an epic Game 5 performance to seal the Knicks' first title since 1973. He became the first Knicks player to ever score 40 or more points in a Finals game and one of just 11 players in NBA history to score 45-plus points in a Finals game.

For the series, Brunson averaged 32.6 points and 4.6 assists per game. He was named Finals MVP and cemented his place as a Knicks legend.

The recovery timeline means he should be healthy in plenty of time for training camp at the end of September.

"Soft-tissue repairs like that, that's usually the magic number," Kaplan said. "Six to eight weeks of pretty intense rehab, physical therapy and then gradually reintroducing, in his case, sports-specific stuff starting with noncontact shooting drills, then eventually noncontact scrimmaging, then actual scrimmaging with contact and then full go."

And it is not something that, once healed, makes him more susceptible to reinjury or means his wrist is weakened.

"I would expect him to be back to normal," Kaplan said. "I wouldn't expect lingering effects from this."

Brunson's heroics already made him a savior to Knicks fans. That he was actually dealing with an injury at the time only adds to his lore.

jschwartz@nypost.com

PAIN GAME: Jalen Brunson played the NBA Finals with pain in his wrist and hand. That didn't stop him from carrying the Knicks to a title and earning the series MVP. He had surgery Tuesday to repair the issue. His timetable for recovery is 6-8 weeks. AP

Brown looks like a winning lotto pick by Nets in summer debut

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — Mikel Brown Jr. had to wait a while for his pro debut. Nets fans had to wait far longer for a prospect like him.

Brown's first appearance in a Nets uniform was worth the wait.

Their highest-drafted player since 2010, Brown sat through their first two games of summer league. But when he finally took the court in the California Classic Finale, he looked the part of the No. 6 pick — and a big building block.

"Very, very — not even anxious — I was just fuming," Brown said of his pro debut in Monday's 100-79 rout of Golden State. "I was kind of like a fire, a fire being lit. I was just ready to hoop, man. It was more of that.

"I've always been trying to keep it cool, calm and collected. ... This being my first game, usually you'd think you hype yourself up. [It was about] just remaining calm. And I know what I can do."

Brown's boxscore read 10 points, four assists and two turnovers against the Warriors. It showed 2-for-5 from deep in an abbreviated outing.

It just showed the surface.

The eye test drove home why some scouts felt Brown had the most star upside of any guard in this class not named Darryn Peterson.

"He's electric. He showed his ability to get downhill. We've got to help him figure out where his reads are, but I'm impressed with his defense," summer league coach Dutch Gaitley said. "It's something he's not known for.

"He's very mature. ... He only played 19 minutes. But his ability to see where the rotations are going to go a step — two steps — ahead is really important. He's really good at it, and it's our job to put him in a position to continue making his reads."

Brown's shot looked smooth and repeatable, if in need of better selection. He put up one attempt that could generously be called audacious. And the wiry rookie will need to bulk up to finish the drives his first step earns him.

BE LIKE MIKEL: Nets lottery pick Mikel Brown Jr. looked good in his summer league debut Monday. Getty Images

But that handle is as tight as any guard besides Peterson. And Brown's passing was the most impressive part of his debut. He had a nice spin move to send Cameron Tyson flying, kicking out to Tyler Bilodeau for a 3 in a 12-0 second quarter run.

Brooklyn opened up with Egor Dëmin at the point and Brown off the ball, and last year's lottery pick assisted this year's first pro bucket.

"That's my guy. We talked about ... how we can play off each other and make each other better and make this team go," Brown said. "That was the biggest thing for us is we've got to be the leaders to step up and lead this team to wins.

"So, to be able to show out and share the floor with him, you got to see what he can do. You could clearly see the growth from last year to now. He's grown a lot just watching him. And my job is to make life easier on him."

Back woes cut Brown's lone collegiate season short in February. He sat the first two summer league games, including a matchup vs. Sacramento's Darius Acuff Jr. that he regretted missing.

"As a competitor, yeah. But at the end of the day, we're thinking big picture. The big picture is compete now, but also we want to be ready for training camp," Brown said. "So me and him, I wanted to play. But it is what it is. I'll get a shot at it in Vegas. We play them again."

The Nets move on from the California Classic to Las Vegas, opening Friday vs. the Knicks and playing Atlanta the next day before a rematch next Tuesday against the Kings. Gaitley said the minutes restriction will ease as Las Vegas goes on.

"I worked this summer on preparing for the physicality, for the spacing, playing with great guys [who] know their role and what they can bring. And just trying to play off them."

brian.lewis@nypost.com

Donovan gets max $273 mil from Cavs

By ERICH RICHTER

The richest spider is going up the waterspout.

On the first day he was eligible, Donovan Mitchell agreed to a four-year, $273 million maximum contract extension with the Cavaliers that includes a player option for the 2030-31 season and also a trade kicker.

The extension locks the Cavaliers in as one of the most expensive teams in basketball as they attempt to lure LeBron James back to Cleveland for his third and final stint with the team.

ESPN reports that Mitchell would be happy to join forces with James as they hope to compete for a title in Cleveland after being bounced last season by the Knicks in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Cavaliers are already locked in as a second-apron team, making most roster moves nearly impossible, including trades and other signings.

James will be meeting with teams in the coming days and weeks as the Cavaliers hope to be among the lucky teams to land an all-time great on a league-minimum contract.

Mitchell will make $60.1 million in his first season with the new contract, beginning in 2027-28. He will then make $65.8 million, $70.6 million and $75.5 million in his player-option season in 2030, respectively.

Mitchell's statistical contributions are rarely questioned, as he averaged 27.3 points per game on 47.5 percent from the field and 37.8 percent from 3-point range in the conference finals.

The Cavaliers were swept by the Knicks in that series, and three of those games were double-digit losses, including a 37-point blowout in Game 4.

James could help reverse those fortunes for the Cavaliers, although entering his age-42 season, Cleveland will need role players to step up.

erichter@nypost.com

REMAIN CHARACTER

Pochettino must decide if he wants USMNT as much as it wants him

IT WAS, of course, too soon.

The wounds — emotional and physical — were still raw. Eyes were still red — a byproduct of anger, shock and sadness from a loss no one expected to absorb, certainly not the way it went down.

In the immediate aftermath of the demoralizing 4-1 loss to Belgium by the U.S. in the World Cup Round of 16 Monday night at Lumen Field — and the stunning way it unfolded — Mauricio Pochettino was not ready to declare, or even discuss, his future as the U.S. manager.

Naturally, he was asked after the match if he planned — or wanted to — remain the leader of the team for the upcoming four-year cycle entering the 2030 World Cup.

"Right now, we've been talking with the [U.S. Soccer] federation about taking a bit of time to rest, to think, to have that conversation and then see what the decision is — both from the federation and from us," Pochettino said some 30 minutes after his team was dismantled and dominated by the superior Belgians. "I think we've built a very good relationship, but now isn't the moment to talk about that. Now is the moment to assess the tournament. In the coming weeks, we can start those conversations, if the federation wants to talk."

The powers that be in U.S. Soccer, beginning with CEO JT Batson, have already made it clear they want him back for four more years, with reports of a contract having already been offered.

The question is whether Pochettino wants to stay on and continue to build what he started, or pursue his overt love of coaching on the club level.

"We had positive conversations with Mauricio before the World Cup about his future," U.S. Soccer said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon. "We agreed we would continue those conversations following a chance to rest and reflect post World Cup."

Make no mistake: The U.S. grossly underachieved against Belgium on Monday, outclassed by a more talented, more experienced and deeper Belgian team.

It looked like the program took a step back and that's the bad taste everyone has in their mouths right now.

But Pochettino is the best manager the U.S. has had in years, more accomplished, more seasoned and less afraid to take risks. He's done an exemplary job in his two years since being hired — the disappointing end notwithstanding.

Amidst the residual sadness remaining from the loss and the abrupt ending to a magic ride that had the entire nation riding the team's coattails, it should not be forgotten that the U.S. won its World Cup group for the first time ever, won more games (three) and scored more goals (10) than any of its previous World Cup teams. It, too, won a knockout round match against Bosnia-Herzegovina to get to the Round of 16. The Americans simply could not handle the step-up in class with Belgium, a top 10 ranked team worldwide.

Pochettino helped build confidence and belief among his players, though those qualities inexplicably evaporated in the Seattle air Monday night.

"He makes players better, but he makes everyone around him much, much better than they actually are," Jesús Pérez told The Post. "I think all the top 10 to 15 coaches in the world — and he is one of them — are super good at almost everything. But what impresses me the most is [Pochettino's] decision-making process."

And now, the biggest decision facing U.S. Soccer in years is Pochettino's pending decision on staying or moving on.

This is where things get complicated. Pochettino likes to coach games. He likes the juice of leading a big club, as evidenced by his coaching stops at Tottenham, PSG and Chelsea.

Even in the lead-up to the World Cup, there were rumors that Pochettino had a desire to return to Tottenham, but then Spurs hired Roberto De Zerbi at the end of March and signed him to a five-year contract.

Then there were rumors that there was mutual interest between Pochettino and AC Milan. But the Italian club hired former Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim in June.

Should Pochettino re-sign, U.S. Soccer should be prepared for constant chatter about him leaving, because when any top club job becomes vacant his name will be among the first to surface as a candidate.

If he remains with the USMNT, matches of consequence Pochettino will coach would be few and far between until the qualifying process for the 2030 World Cup begins.

Meanwhile, all of his top players will be playing for their clubs all over the world.

It's a weird job that way, coaching a national team, because you get only so much time with your players and there's a lot of idle time between matches.

Now the question is what is in Pochettino's heart.

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

BIG CHOICE: After the U.S. lost to Belgium on Monday, Mauricio Pochettino (inset, consoling Chris Richards) now must figure out if he wants to be part of the team's future.

U.S. to continue 'conversations' with coach about future

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — On the first day of tomorrow, U.S. Soccer indicated it's not sure what the future holds.

The federation released a statement Tuesday that was noncommittal about the status of manager Mauricio Pochettino, who himself gave a nonanswer when asked about the subject following the blowout 4-1 defeat to Belgium.

"We had positive conversations with Mauricio before the World Cup about the future," the statement read. "We agreed we would continue those conversations following a chance to rest and reflect post World Cup. We have a great deal of respect and gratitude for Mauricio, his staff and everyone part of the program. We have shared excitement about our potential and also shared clarity about the amount of work at all levels still required to achieve our ambition."

No one from the federation was made available to answer questions Tuesday.

Pochettino's contract ran through the World Cup, but an extension offer through the 2030 cycle was reportedly presented to him prior to the competition.

The 54-year-old Argentine has made no secret of his desire to return to England's Premier League, and Italian giants AC Milan were rumored to be after his services at the end of May, though they hired Ruben Amorim instead.

"In the next few weeks, we can start to talk if the federation wants to talk," Pochettino said postgame.

"Right now it's about resting a little bit, to think, to have conversations with the federation to see what the decision is. I'm so happy. We've built a very good relationship. Now is not a moment to talk about [my future]."

USMNT NOTES

➤ The Royal Belgian Football Association released a statement confirming its case regarding **Folarin Balogun**'s suspended red card is "ongoing" despite the result Monday night.

"The Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) is proud of the way the Red Devils responded on the pitch yesterday," the statement read. "At the same time, the RBFA will continue to pursue the ongoing FIFA matter off the pitch. The RBFA firmly believes that international football is best served by a disciplinary and governance framework that fully upholds the principles of legal certainty, transparency, equal treatment and fair play.

"... Regardless of the sporting outcome, the RBFA will continue to advocate for the correct and consistent application of these principles by FIFA, ensuring that any form of arbitrariness is avoided."

Messi & Co. pull off stunning comeback to eliminate Egypt

By HOWIE KUSSOY

First Neymar. Then Ronaldo. Now another reminder that Lionel Messi isn't just another legend.

Just one day after his greatest rival (Cristiano Ronaldo) played his final World Cup match for Portugal — and two days after his former teammate (Neymar) was eliminated in his final appearance with Brazil — Messi improbably extended his stay in what will likely be his final World Cup.

Despite trailing by two goals through 78 minutes, Argentina miraculously avoided a massive upset by completing an unforgettable comeback in a 3-2 triumph over Egypt in the Round of 16 in Atlanta.

Messi, who missed a penalty kick early in the match, recovered to revive the hopes of the reigning World Cup champions with a beautiful cross to Cristian Romero in the 79th minute, then sparked bedlam in Buenos Aires after delivering the game-tying (and tournament-leading eighth) goal in the 83rd minute, setting the stage for Enzo Fernandez's winner in stoppage time.

"There are no words to describe Messi," teammate Julian Álvarez said. "He's a monster."

Argentina hadn't pulled off a comeback win in the World Cup in 20 years — when a 19-year-old Messi came off the bench against Mexico in the Round of 16 — but advanced to the quarterfinals in Kansas City to face the winner of Colombia-Switzerland by scoring three goals in 13 minutes and 15 seconds, keeping alive its dream of becoming the first back-to-back World Cup winner since 1962 (Brazil).

ARGENTINA 3
EGYPT 2
Round of 16

It is the first time in World Cup history that a team has won a knockout match in regulation after trailing by two goals through 78 minutes.

"It was a relief for everyone," Messi said. "But this group never gives up. It's crazy what this group did today."

Coming off an emotional win in extra time against Cape Verde, Argentina's run appeared done after Mostafa Zico's goal in the 67th minute. Egypt, on the verge of clinching its first appearance in the World Cup quarterfinals, controlled the match even after a goal was controversially erased by VAR — a decision Egypt coach Hossam Hassan called an "injustice."

But less than five minutes after Romero put Argentina on the board, Messi added another iconic moment to his unrivaled resume. After becoming the first player in World Cup history to miss two penalties in a single World Cup (excluding shootouts), Messi morphed into the messiah, finding the ball on his left foot in a crowded box and blasting the equalizer off the fingers of Egyptian keeper Mostafa Shobeir and under the crossbar for his World Cup-record 21st goal. The 39-year-old swung his arms passionately as he sprinted and leapt toward the corner of the field, scoring in his record ninth straight World Cup match (including six straight knockout matches).

"It was a huge release," Messi said. "I was really frustrated about the missed penalty. I felt like I had let the team down at a crucial moment.

"It was very emotional being able to turn it around."

When the final whistle sounded, Messi covered his face, shedding tears of joy. The Argentine captain was hoisted onto his teammates' shoulders and thrown into the air, having pulled his nation back from the brink.

There was nothing left to do but enjoy the view.

hkussoy@nypost.com

RAREFIED AIR: Argentina players toss teammate Lionel Messi into the air as they celebrate their miraculous 3-2 Round of 16 victory over Egypt. AP

U.S. HAS HOST

USMNT REPORT CARD

BY [redacted]

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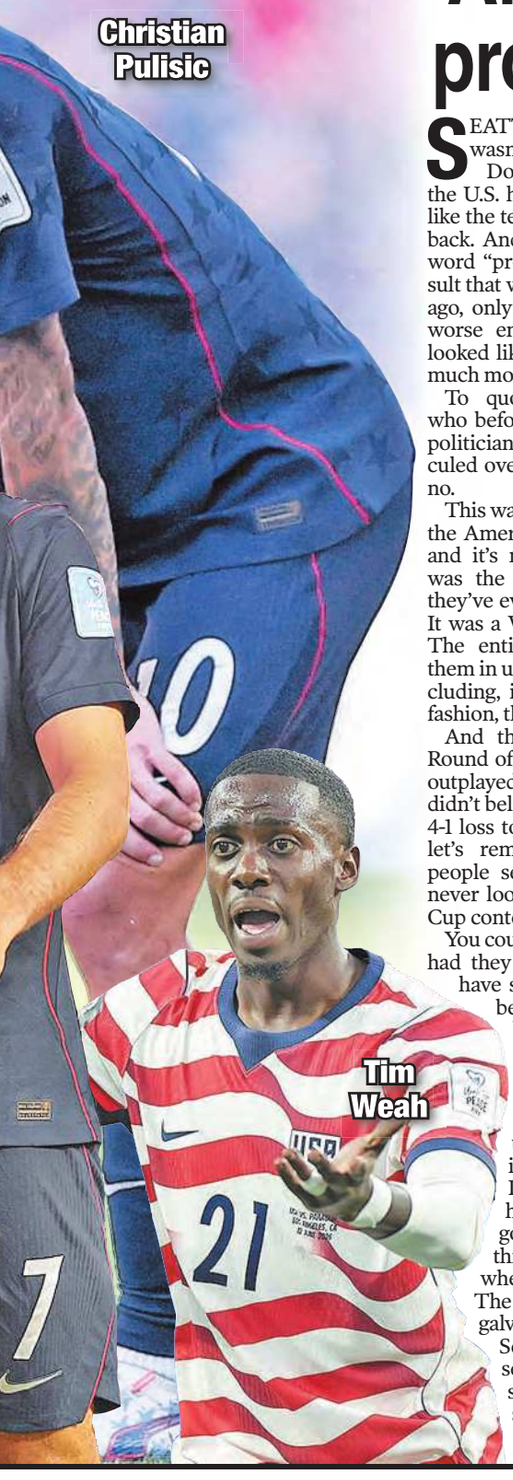
[

OF PROBLEMS

Americans waste golden opportunity to prove themselves with flop on home soil



Ethan Sears

SEATTLE — Don't tell me this wasn't a failure.

Don't talk nicely about how the U.S. had a good run. Don't act like the team deserves a pat on the back. And don't you dare use the word "progress" to describe a result that was identical to four years ago, only with higher highs, a far worse ending and a squad that looked like it could have achieved much more but didn't.

To quote Margaret Thatcher, who before Monday was the only politician in history to be so ridiculed over a soccer result: No, no, no.

This was the most talented group the American men have ever had, and it's not particularly close. It was the most prestigious coach they've ever had and it's not close. It was a World Cup on home soil. The entire country was behind them in unprecedented fashion, including, in typically controversial fashion, the president.

And they thudded out in the Round of 16 again. Outclassed and outplayed, they looked like they didn't belong on the same field in a 4-1 loss to a Belgium team that — let's remind ourselves, because people seem to be forgetting — never looked like a serious World Cup contender.

You could have spun this forward had they fought hard. You could have showered praise if they'd beaten Belgium only to be blown out by Spain. They didn't and you can't.

Let's not mix up potential with progress. The U.S. showed so much potential in this tournament in the way it demolished Paraguay, in the resolve it had against Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the way it looked throughout the group stage when it was all humming. The ceiling of this team was galvanizing. Walking around Seattle on Monday and seeing a city engulfed by a soccer game felt like something out of a dream.

Progress, though, implies a better end result than before. This wasn't. And at this point, it's fair to ask, what exactly would this be progress toward?

For nine years since the ignominy of bombing out of World Cup qualifying against tiny Trinidad and Tobago, everything built toward this.

Not only was it a home World Cup, but every important player aside from Tim Ream is in his 20s, most in the sweet spot between 24 and 28. This was it. For nine years since failing to qualify in 2018, for eight years since the U.S. was awarded this tournament, this was the end point.

All that to be blown out by a team that, talent-wise, was very much in the U.S.'s ballpark. All that, for Christian Pulisic to have an anonymous, injury-filled tournament and — unwittingly or not — project apathy at every opportunity. All that for Tyler Adams to ask, "Was anyone a major presence on the field today?"

It was the right question. Everyone knew the answer.

Given the opportunity at hand and the wretched performance, it's fair to call it the worst World Cup night in the long history of the national team.

Some of the young talent in the pool that didn't make this roster is compelling, and lots of players on the roster will have huge roles to play in the 2030 cycle. But no one can seriously argue that the 2030 World Cup represents a better chance at making a run or at — all together now — changing soccer in America than this did.

"We've had so much faith and belief in each other and we felt a nation coming together and getting that belief too. Feels like we've let ourselves down, let them down," Antonee "Jedi" Robinson said. "Beyond disappointing, because it was there for us."

The 2028 Copa America is, perhaps, a real shot at a meaningful trophy. But based on Monday, it's a long shot, and will the Copa America really register with the general public? That the question even needs asking is a bad sign for the sport's growth. The opportunity was so massively fumbled that it's hard to fully comprehend the scale of it.

What needs to change next is a question without a satisfying answer. In another country, Mauricio Pochettino would have been forced to resign over it, but tactics didn't have much to do with a performance in which the U.S. could barely complete a pass. You can't go trade for better players on a national team, and was this even about a talent gap anyway? No one thought that gap was huge before Monday.

Players and Pochettino, uniformly, insisted that all the noise around Folarin Balogun's reinstatement didn't affect them. That is hard to believe, and even if true, it certainly rallied Belgium. Blaming the president for this, though, would be the height of comedy.

Long term, U.S. Soccer needs to break down barriers to entry and make the sport cheaper and easier to play. MLS needs to stop acting like survival is its priority and embrace a growth strategy. Fans who watched soccer for the first time over the past few weeks need to care about national team camp in October like they do NFL training camp.

None of that, though, will make a difference within the next four years. And all of it, to one degree or another, seems unlikely.

In the immediate future, U.S. Soccer must ask hard questions about who should be the coach and about whether Pochettino's attempts at changing the culture truly took hold. Will we see the full roster show up for the Gold Cup next summer? If not, then the culture is still a problem, and creating change remains an urgent matter.

We, the watching public, also need to mind the stories we tell ourselves about this tournament.

Don't coddle this team. Don't treat it as a program that could never be expected to compete with Belgium, a great soccer country with an aging squad and half the population of the tristate area.

This is a sport in which change comes from the bottom. If you are satisfied, then so too will be the decision-makers.

esears@nypost.com

Loss draws record ratings

The U.S. loss to Belgium delivered the biggest soccer audience in American television history.

The match averaged 30 million viewers, making it the most-watched soccer telecast ever in the U.S., Fox Sports announced Tuesday.

The Round of 16 matchup in Seattle peaked at 36.8 million viewers between 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. ET, per the company.

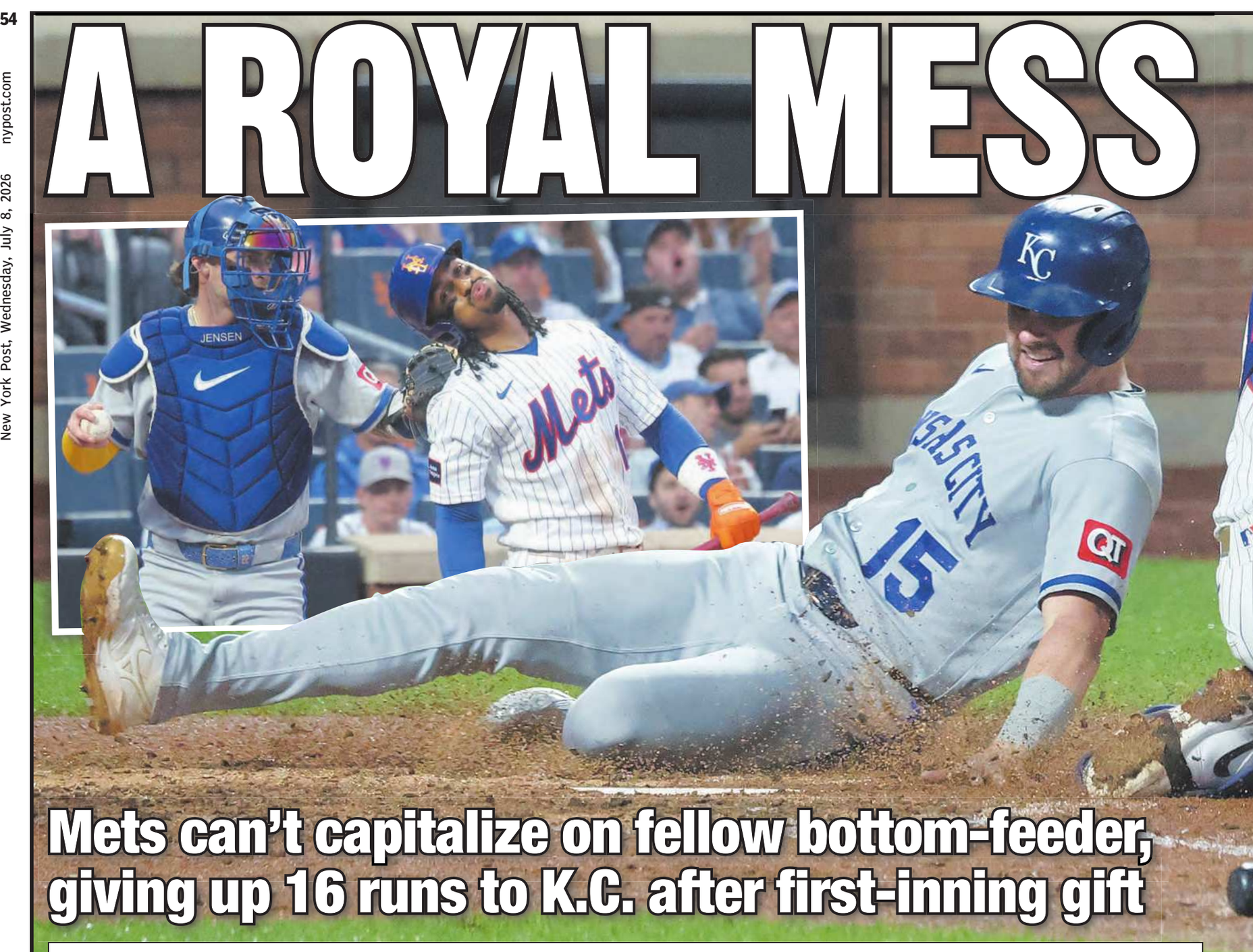
It continued a massive World Cup run for Fox as the Americans captured the nation's attention during the first men's tournament on home soil since 1994.

The previous record had just been set by the U.S. national team's 2-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32, which Fox said averaged nearly 26.4 million viewers and peaked at more than 34.8 million.

The surge started in the group stage, when the Americans' World Cup opener against Paraguay averaged 15.986 million viewers and briefly stood as the most-watched USMNT telecast ever.

— *Dylan Svoboda*

A ROYAL MESS



Mets can't capitalize on fellow bottom-feeder, giving up 16 runs to K.C. after first-inning gift

By DAN MARTIN

Raise the white flag.

As if a matchup of two last-place teams on a crummy night in Queens wasn't enough, the Mets had perhaps their sloppiest, ugliest loss of the season against the miserable Royals, 16-12, in a wild game to open a homestand at Citi Field on Tuesday night.

After opening a five-run lead in the fourth, the Mets gave up a dozen straight runs before getting back on the scoreboard.

It came on a night that saw the Royals hand the Mets a three-run Little League homer in the bottom of the first, thanks to three throwing errors on one play.

That proved to be just an appetizer for a bizarre night, and it still couldn't propel the Mets to a victory, as their ragtag pitching staff was no match for the Royals.

The Mets, short in the bullpen after taxing their pitching staff in back-to-back wins in Atlanta the previous two games, were forced to pitch Kodai Senga on three days' rest for the first time in his career and then saw Austin Warren fail to retire a batter in the fifth.

That led to Long Island's Matt Seelinger making his MLB debut in a tie game after a decade in the minors.

Interim manager Andy Green acknowledged the rough condition of the staff and said the team was "forced to make some of those triage decisions along the way."

A truer statement probably couldn't be made about this Mets season — until Green followed by saying the game "turned into kind of a perfect storm."

ROYALS	**16**	**Boxscore Page 40**
METS	**12**	

The aftermath included the Mets falling to 200-2 in franchise history when scoring 12 or more runs, as they wasted a breakout offensive night from A.J. Ewing and a three-run homer by Juan Soto, his 20th of the season.

It began to fall apart when Senga allowed two runs in the second and a pair more in the fourth.

After Soto gave them a five-run lead in the bottom of the inning, Austin Warren entered to start the fifth and allowed all six batters he faced to reach base — and five of them to score, as Kansas City tied the game 9-9.

Warren called his outing "terrible" and noted his poor location.

Instead of the right-hander eating innings, he forced Huascar Brazobán into the game earlier than planned, which left Seelinger to make his MLB debut in a tie game, and the right-hander allowed seven runs.

The Westbury native immediately ran into trouble, as he walked Lane Thomas on four pitches and then gave up an RBI double to Salvador Perez.

Nick Loftin tagged Seelinger for a two-run shot later in the inning.

He survived and pitched a scoreless eighth, but it didn't matter.

Coming off back-to-back close wins in Atlanta, the Mets returned to Queens, where they'd lost six of seven in their last homestand.

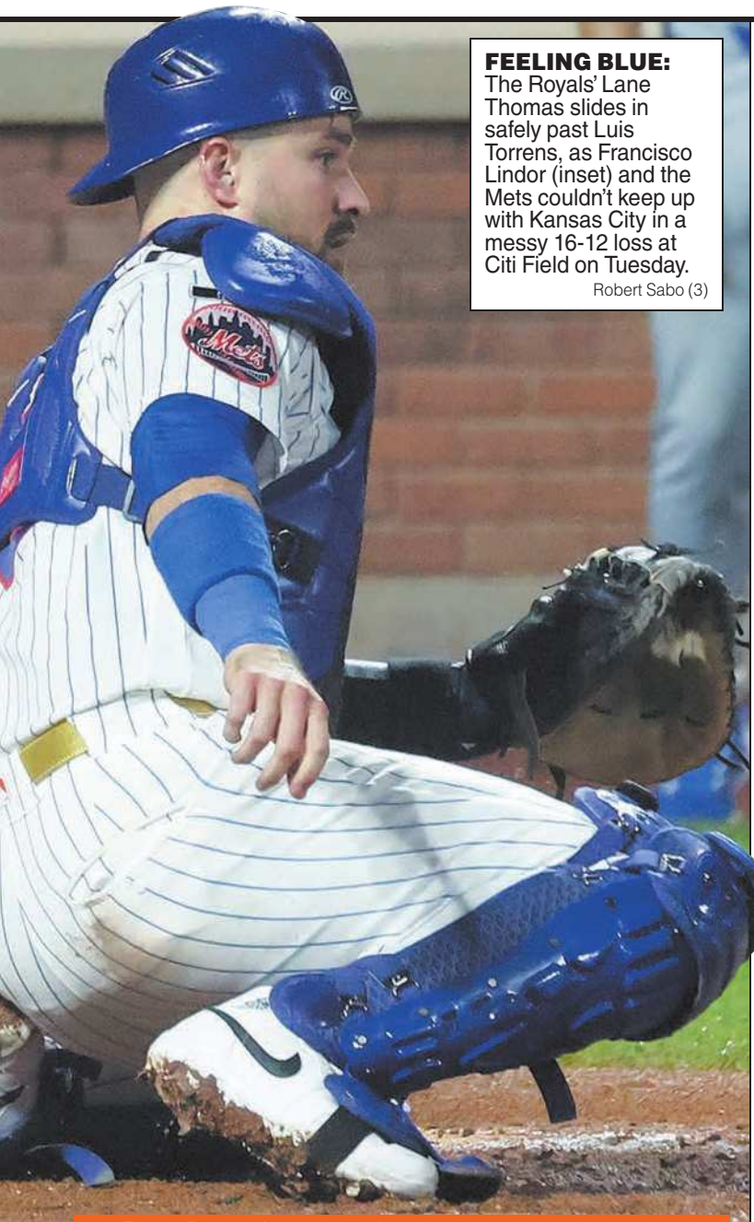
Looking to win a third straight game for the first time since their four-game winning streak at the end of May, the Mets instead suffered another brutal defeat.

"The season presents these challenges," Green said before the game of the team's depleted bullpen.

He couldn't have foreseen this one coming, though.

And it doesn't figure to get much better anytime soon for a Mets team that is already staggering to the All-Star break with seemingly no answers on the horizon.

dan.martin@nypost.com



FEELING BLUE: The Royals' Lane Thomas slides in safely past Luis Torrens, as Francisco Lindor (inset) and the Mets couldn't keep up with Kansas City in a messy 16-12 loss at Citi Field on Tuesday. Robert Sabo (3)

LI's Seelinger gets harsh MLB welcome

By GRACE McCARRON

Matt Seelinger returned home Tuesday to make his big league debut. It was not a happy homecoming for the 31-year-old Westbury, LI, native.

The career minor leaguer's night didn't go quite as he'd hoped. He entered a tie game in the seventh but allowed seven earned runs, including a home run to Nick Loftin and a bases-loaded walk to Carter Jensen. He concluded the seventh with his first two career strikeouts, whiffing Jac Caglianone and future Hall of Famer Salvador Perez.

His second inning went much more smoothly. Seelinger allowed only one hit, a double to Loftin, and two flyouts and a groundout concluded the inning before any further damage.

"It obviously wasn't the best way that I wanted to start my major league career," Seelinger said after the 16-12 loss. "But I was very proud to recollect myself in the dugout and get my bearings and get out there and compete, put up a zero in that inning and help the team out."

By the end of his first major league outing, Seelinger's ERA was 31.50.

"Obviously the tough first inning for Seelinger," interim manager Andy Green said. "Big of him to go back out there and give us another inning after going over 40 pitches in one inning.

"You never really want to ask that of a guy. You care about those guys on the mound, you want to put them in positions to succeed. It was a tough ask."

It was a sad sight in a strange game in Queens. The Mets and Royals, two of the bottom-dwellers of the major leagues this season, traded runs throughout the night. The Mets scored their first three on a Little League home run where the Royals committed three throwing errors, and it all ended in a wild loss in a stadium Seelinger knows well.

ROUGH NIGHT: Long Island native Matt Seelinger delivers in his MLB debut, giving up seven runs in two innings. Robert Sabo

It's not the first time the journeyman has come home to play baseball. Seelinger pitched in 21 games for the Long Island Ducks in 2024. Since then, he's pitched in 31 games for Double-A Erie and Triple-A Toledo in the Tigers system. In 39 ⅓ innings for Toledo this season, he recorded a 3.89 ERA with 49 strikeouts and 19 walks.

Despite the rough debut, Seelinger has plenty of happy memories at Citi Field.

"I was throwing [Monday], and I was like 'I've sat there for a game, I've sat there for a game, I sat there for a New York Rangers Winter Classic back in the day, I went to the Home Run Derby here and all that.' ... I couldn't be more thankful for the Mets to give me this opportunity," Seelinger said pregame Tuesday.

Seelinger, who held on to the balls from his first major league pitch and first strikeout, also shared his experience with his family on his big day.

"Everyone was crying. It was unbelievable. I saw them coming out after the first inning. ... After the game, that's a special moment that I've been waiting for my whole life."

Polanco returns to team in shambles

By DAN MARTIN

There was a time this season when it seemed the Mets were waiting to get their high-priced veteran players healthy in order to get them in the lineup and make a run at salvaging the season.

Jorge Polanco was a part of that group when he went down with a right wrist contusion April 14.

By the time he finally returned to the Mets on Tuesday night at Citi Field, Polanco had become one of the faces of everything that's gone wrong for the team this year.

Polanco doubled and nearly homered in a 16-12 loss.

Interim manager Andy Green said Polanco had "good at-bats" and believed the switch-hitter "lengthened the lineup."

He's still not fully recovered from the Achilles bursitis that's plagued him all season — and helped keep him on the IL for nearly three months — even though he was initially sidelined by the wrist injury.

And even as Polanco returned, it's only as a part-time player — as he will be limited to DH duties, at least in the short term.

But beggars can't be choosers, so the 33-year-old was back in the lineup as the Mets opened a homestand against the Royals at Citi Field.

"I'm feeling good," Polanco said. "I'm excited to be here. Grateful to be back."

Polanco was signed to a two-year, $40 million contract as a piece of the offseason roster overhaul that saw the arrival of Bo Bichette, Marcus Semien and Luis Robert Jr., among others, along with the departure of Pete Alonso, Brandon Nimmo and Jeff McNeil.

The results have been worse than anyone could have imagined, as by the time Polanco got back, with Robert still sidelined, a new manager greeted him.

"We're most excited about his bat right now," interim manager Andy Green said before the game. "If he ends up at first base as time goes on, that would be great. His bat has a lot of value for us."

Polanco being stuck at DH will likely limit the time other players — like Francisco Alvarez — will get at the position.

Green also pointed to liking the presence of a switch-hitter on the bench in Polanco.

Not surprisingly, Polanco called his first season as a Met "frustrating."

"You can't control it," Polanco said of the injuries. "You want to be there and I want to help the team. I was just trying to get healthy and I'm back here now, so I am happy."

Whether he can get the Mets out of their malaise is a different matter.

Mets notes / Page 45

ON DECK vs Royals

Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

[illegible]

ON DECK

at Rays

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FOOL'S GOLD': Paul Goldschmidt, who is in the midst of an 0-for-30 skid after going 0-for-4 with four strikeouts Tuesday, reacts after whiffing in the seventh inning of the Yankees' 6-4 loss to the Rays. Will Warren (left) allowed six runs on seven hits, including three homers.
AP; Getty Images

READY TO LAUNCH: Ben Rice, who went 3-for-4, hits a three-run home run as one of the few Yankee bright spots in their 6-4 loss to the Rays. The first-time All-Star, who leads the Bombers with 26 home runs, committed to participating in the Home Run Derby on Monday.
Getty Images; Imagn Images

Rice gets to live HR Derby 'dream' with dad pitching

By GREG JOYCE

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — What started on little league fields in small-town Massachusetts is headed to Philadelphia on Monday.

On the eve of his first All-Star Game, Ben Rice will take his shot in the Home Run Derby with his father, Dan, throwing to him in what the Yankees slugger described as a "lifelong dream of both of ours."

"I just want to enjoy it, have fun taking [batting practice] with my dad at a big league field in front of a bunch of people," Rice said Tuesday at Tropicana Field. "It should be cool. ... His lifetime pitch count is through the roof at this point. We'll keep adding to that total on Monday."

Rice, who went 3-for-4 and smashed his team-leading 26th home run in the Yankees' 6-4 loss to the Rays on Tuesday, is one of two confirmed participants in the event so far, along with Rays star Junior Caminero. He will try to become the first Yankee to win it since Aaron Judge in 2017.

Once he firmed up his decision to participate in the Derby — after being named an All-Star on Saturday — Rice got to call his dad to let him know his arm would be needed on the big stage.

"That was a special moment," Rice said. "He's a former college pitcher [at Brown]. Had a good curveball back in the day. My friends and family back home are all joking that I got to remind him to not throw me breaking stuff during the Derby to try to get me out, because that was always how we trained. He's got a good arm."

In addition to countless sessions while Rice was growing up (and now in the offseason still), Dan also threw him batting practice often during the COVID pandemic, when the Ivy League canceled a pair of seasons that wiped out most of Rice's career at Dartmouth. Yankees scout Matt Hyde saw plenty of Rice during those sessions, sometimes held in old indoor cages around the Boston area, leading to the organization drafting him in the 12th round in 2021.

"What [Dan] would do is he would start to challenge him and mix the pitches," Hyde previously told The Post. "It would be this competitive me-against-you type of atmosphere."

Monday will involve more grooving meatballs over the heart of the plate for Rice.

As for any potential concern about the Derby messing up Rice's swing for the second half, that may be lessened by the format of the event changing to hitters getting a certain number of swings — 20 in the first round, and 15 each in the second round and finals — instead of a timed session where they had to take a hack at every pitch.

"I'm not too worried about it," manager Aaron Boone said. "I think it's one of the exciting events in our sport that's meaningful, especially when you get the opportunity to do it in this case for the first time for Benny. I think it's great."

Rice has some experience in home run hitting contests. When he played in the Futures League in the summer of 2020, games tied after 10 innings would be decided by home run derbies. Rice said he won all three he participated in.

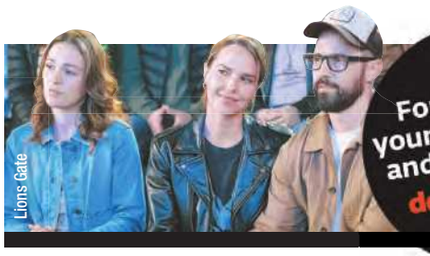
The lefty-swinging masher has helped the Yankees make up for some of the production in Judge's absence, and though he cooled off some after a blistering start to the season, he had clubbed three home runs in his past six games entering Tuesday.

Fellow All-Star and Massachusetts native Cam Schlittler has already volunteered to be Rice's "personal Gatorade boy," and Rice sat next to Judge on the flight to Tampa on Sunday night and watched the captain's round from 2017.

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"I Can Only Imagine 2" (Starz) falls prey to the faith-based movie template requiring the deployment of earnestness by the metric ton.
OUR CALL: SKIP IT


Lions Gate

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

WHAT TO WATCH

Sophie Brooks' wonderfully weird 2025 charmer **"Oh, Hi!"** is streaming on Netflix. Starring the charismatic duo of **Molly Gordon** (left) and **Logan Lerman** (far left), the unconventional rom-com centers on a romantic weekend that goes horribly awry when a young couple realizes they have very different interpretations of their current relationship. Gordon and Lerman are predictably terrific, with the film also featuring standout performances from Geraldine Viswanathan and John Reynolds

'TIME STOOD STILL'

'The Vampire Lestat' stars share their reactions to reading Akasha's monologue for the first time

By MEGHAN O'KEEFE

Sophie Giraud/AMC

Sam Reid (center, left) stars in "The Vampire Lestat" with Sheila Atim (right). New episodes come out on AMC on Sundays.

The queen has arrived on AMC's **"The Vampire Lestat."**

"The Vampire Lestat" Season 3 Episode 5 "New York" shows us via Lestat's flashbacks just how our titular hero got the "blood of Akasha" in the first place in a thrilling sequence that left star Sam Reid feeling "sick" the first time he read it.

****Spoilers for "The Vampire Lestat" Season 3 Episode 5 "New York," now streaming on AMC+****

In the latest episode, we discover how Marius de Romanus (Christopher Heyerdahl) recruited Lestat to watch over the seemingly frozen

Akasha (Sheila Atim) and Enkil, aka the very first vampires to ever live. The powerful beings are currently in statue form, but they can be stirred. When Marius is gone, Lestat does just this. He accidentally wakes Akasha up from her state of slumber with the tiniest drop of his blood, prompting her first to call him to her before she bites him. When Marius returns, Lestat is literally floating in the air, bouncing off the ceiling, and Akasha is rambling a sweet stream of poetic madness.

"That monologue that she has, written by Hannah [Moscovitch], is just, like, astonishing," Sam Reid told DECIDER. "It was just kind of like time stood still."

"I felt sick after I read it," co-star Jacob Anderson said.

"Yeah," Reid agreed. "It's amazing the first time."

Reid added that he and Sheila Atim have known each other "for a very long" time: "I mean, she is so incredible... It was lovely to get to work with her and for everyone else to see how astonishing she is."

Also somewhat astonishing? The "fun" Reid had on the wires.

"I mean, it's a shame you don't really fully see it, but I do like a ten foot free-fall drop in that scene," Reid said. "So that is me actually free-falling on the wire, which I did multiple times."

Reid revealed that he got a little battered and bruised filming that sequence and joked that he thinks the production saved those scenes for the end on purpose. "I think they purposely put it at the end because all the injuries I sustained from that shot, I took on to my holiday, rather than any work that I had afterwards," Reid quipped.

"But yeah, super fun. The wires are so much fun," he said.

Akasha is the first vampire ever created in Anne Rice's lore. She was born over 6,000 years ago in what is present-day Iraq and married Enkil, king of Kemet (which would later become Egypt). Akasha and Enkil were shockingly against their culture's love of cannibalism and outlawed the practice, becoming unpopular in the process. When Akasha becomes obsessed with mysticism, she pesters two twins with knowledge of the occult to answer her questions about the supernatural. Akasha and the twins soon become bitter enemies, setting off a sort of war of awful attrition that culminates with the twins calling upon the powerful spirit Amel to essentially haunt Akasha.

Because Amel was essentially cursing Kemet, the pro-cannibalism nobles launched a campaign against Akasha and Enkil, stabbing both repeatedly. As Akasha died, Amel combined his spirit with hers, entering her body and transforming her into the first vampire. She gave her dying husband the dark gift in turn, and they created vampires. Eventually, Akasha and Enkil became targets of vampires who coveted their power. They were transformed into "Those Who Must Be Kept," in stone form. Which is where and how Lestat finds them at the turn of the 20th century. In Anne Rice's books, Akasha will once again be awakened in the modern day... by Lestat's music. We'll have to wait to see if that's what happens in AMC's "The Vampire Lestat."

Apple

TRENDING NOW

Apple TV has teased a first look at **"Nocturne,"** one of its upcoming fall releases. Based on Lars Kepler's **"Lazarus"** and **"The Sandman"** novels, the new series starring **Zazie Beetz** (left), Liev Schreiber, and Stephen Graham premieres on Friday, Oct. 30.

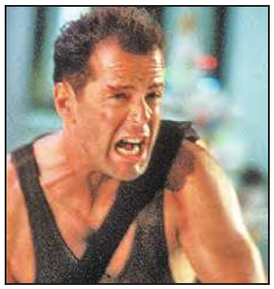
WHAT'S NEW

ON APPLE TV
"**Trying**," the Season 5 premiere.

ON FOOD NETWORK
"**Kitchen Chaos**," a new series (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight



ACTION

Live Free or Die Hard: 5 p.m. on AMC. Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant. John McClane is forced to team up with a hacker, to stop a master cyber-terrorist.

FAMILY

The Goonies: 6 p.m. on PARMT. Sean Astin, Josh Brolin. A group of young misfits discover an ancient map and set out on an adventure to find treasure.

ADVENTURE

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom: 11 p.m. on PARMT. Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw. Dr. Jones is tasked by Indian villagers with reclaiming a sacred stone.

Wednesday July 8, 2026

SP= Spectrum, C= Cablevision, F= FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Harlan Coben's Final Twist: Shot in the Dark (R)		NCIS: Page-Turner (R)		NCIS: Sydney: Death Card (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics (R)
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Chicago Med: Spill Your Guts (R)		Chicago Fire: Sway (R)		Chicago P.D.: Heroes (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 5 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	MasterChef: Team Pitch to Plate (R)		MasterChef: World Cup Cookoff (R)		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune: Hough and Tonioli (R)		Shifting Gears: Secret	Shifting Gears: Date	(10:01) Shifting Gears	Shifting Gears: Scary	News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: Secrets in Pleasant Prairie (R)		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Dangerous Secret (R)	
11 WPIX	11	11	1	Community Closeup	NY-7 Democratic Primary Debate		Police 24/7: Search and Seizure (R)		Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent: Three Points		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: Yada Yada
13 WNET	13	13	1	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Nature: Niagara Falls (R)		NOVA: Black Hole Apocalypse (R)		The American Southwest (2025)		Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	2	(6:00) News	Antiques Roadshow (R)		TURN: Washington's		Becoming Katharine Graham				BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	2	Energy Swi	Brookly n	Her B Idea	The NYC F	Feet	Bric tv BM	Eat Harlem	$9.99 R	Neighbor	New York	Secrets NY
31 WPXN	31	3	53	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU: Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Hermanas Un Amo		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	1	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		El Turco: Lucha		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Obsessed		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor .	Neighbor .
A&E	46	46	18	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest	Arrest	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.
AMC	54	43	23	(5:00) Live Free or Die Hard (2007)			Die Hard (1988, Action) Bruce Willis. R						Die Hard 2 (1990) R	
BBCAM	71	101	18	(5:00) Unforgiven (1992, Western)			A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise. R						Criminal Minds	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Gangster: Trap Queens		OG Stories	The Oval
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	The Valley (R)		The Valley		(9:15) Next Gen NYC		Watch What	(10:45) The Valley: It's My Birthday (R)		
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		WNBA Basketball Live.			
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett t OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source wit h Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Daily Show	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown		Mystery: Episode 7		Exp. Unknown: Search	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Finding Dory (2016) Ellen DeGeneres.			Phineas	Phineas	(10:35) Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Mothe r (R)	Elf (2003, Holiday) Will Ferrell. PG			
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	MLB Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies at Cincinnati Reds. Live.						MLB Baseball Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	ESPN FC	NFL Live		ESPN Films				ESPN Films		SportsCenter	
FBN	43	106	11	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		American Dynasty (R)		American Dynasty: Fords		American Dynasty (R)		American Dynasty: Astor	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Eggsplosi.	Peppers	Guy's Grocery Games	
FREE	38	49	199	The Princess Diaries		The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) Anne Hathaway .					Million Dollar Nannies		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	2026 FIFA World Cup: Teams TBA Replay.				2026 FIFA World Cup: Teams TBA Replay.				2026 FIFA World Cup: Teams TBA		
FX	10	40	53	Ragnarok	Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13								Fantastic Four (2015)	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Everything Christmas (2023)			Christmas Under Construction (2026)				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Crashers	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Renovation Resor t Show		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	(6:00) Alone: Worlds Collide: Part 2 (R)					Alone: Cold Omen			(10:34) Forged in Fire		Alone (R)
ID	23	171	1	The Tapes	The Murder Tapes		See No Evil		The Hidden Bullet		Case Paula Zahn		Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	Rizzoli	Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles: Knockout		(11:03) Rizzoli & Isles	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnet t	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(6:00) UFA	INTENNSE Tennis: Inferno vs. Ridge Live.				Odds	MSG Summer	NBA Basketball: New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers.			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(5:00) NHL	Forever (R)	Forever (R)	The Wager	The Wager	NHL Hockey Replay.				NHL Hockey Replay.	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour wit h Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
NATGEO	65	162	12	Man Shark	Bull vs. Hammer (R)		Great White vs. Tiger (R)		Sharks: Reef Rivals		Great White Gauntlet (R)		When Sharks (R)	
NICK	6	21	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	1	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) The Goonies (1985, Adventure) Sean Astin.				(8:27) Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, Adventure) Harrison Ford.					Temple of Doom (1984)	
SNY	26	60	77	Pre Game	MLB Baseball: Kansas City Royals at New York Mets from Citi Field. Live.						Post Game	Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Holes	Angels & Demons (2009, Thriller) Tom Hanks. PG-13						The Ark: The Other You		The Ark (R)	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	AEW: Dynamite: Beach Break Live.				The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
TCM	82	41	23	Voltaire (1933, Drama) George Arliss.			Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) Shirley MacLaine.				(10:15) Heaven Knows, Mr. Allison (1957, Drama)			
TLC	52	28	139	Dangerous.	Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme Humans		Save My Skin (R)		Save My Skin (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(4:00) Dune	(7:15) Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (2024, Action) Anya Taylor-Joy . R						(10:15) The Batman (2022, Crime) Robert Pattinson.			
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) 9-1-1	WNBA Wed		WNBA Basketball: Minnesota Lynx at Connecticut Sun. Live.				WNBA Basketball Live.			
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Basketball Wives (R)		Basketball Wives (R)		Basketball Wives (R)		Basketball Wives (R)	
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Sub Rosa		NCIS: Minimum Security		NCIS: Marine Down		NCIS: Left for Dead		NCIS: Eye Spy	
YES	53	89	76	Breaking	Badalona to			Brookly n	Pinstripe	Postgame	Yankees	My Number	MLB Baseball Taped.	
HBO	511	301	400	Dragon (R)	(6:56) Of the Dragon (R)		House of the Dragon (R)		Lee Cronin's The Mummy (2026) Jack Reynor. R				Evil Dead Rise (2023)	
MAX	531	371	420	(6:37) Halloween: Resurrection (2002) R			(8:07) Bad Santa (2003, Comedy) R			(9:39) Bad Santa 2 (2016, Comedy)			Wonder Woman (2017)	
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:00) Regretting You (2025, Romance)			Whiplash (2014, Drama) Miles Teller. R			(9:50) Stand by Me (1986, Drama)			Count of Monte (2024)	
PARSHO	551	321	36	(5:45) The Hunt for Red October (1990)			Clear and Present Danger (1994, Action) Harrison Ford. PG-13					(10:25) The Sum of All Fears (2002)		

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Christian Pulisic and the U.S. national team may have captured the country's attention, but flaming out in the Round of 16 left the program exactly where it was four years ago, having failed to capitalize on playing on home soil. PAGES 52-53

Sears: World Cup was anything but a success for U.S.

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